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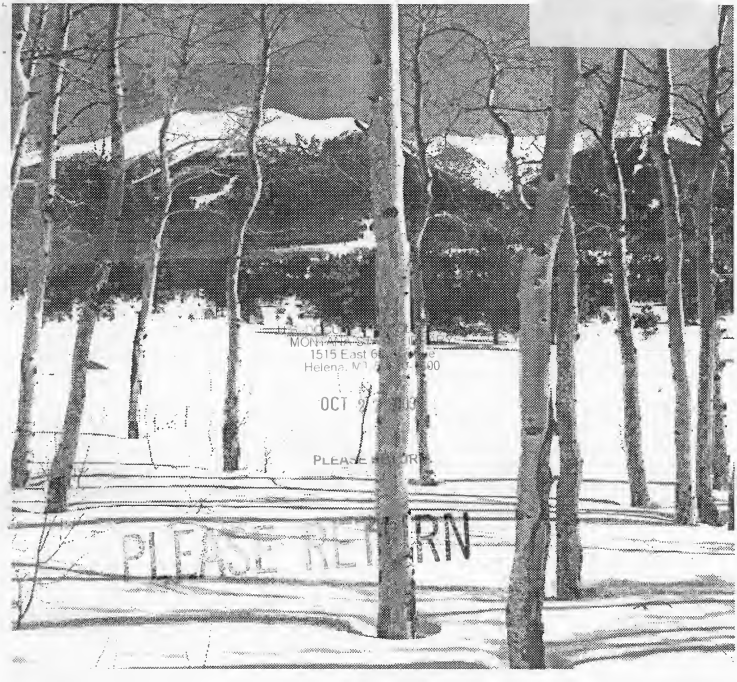
Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

Montana
Basin Outlook Report
March 1, 1996



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Basin Outlook Reports
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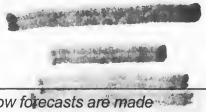

How forecasts are made

Most of the annual streamflow in the Western United States originates as snowfall that has accumulated high in the mountains during winter and early spring. As the snowpack accumulates, hydrologists estimate the runoff that will occur when it melts. Predictions are based on careful measurements of snow water equivalent at selected index points. Precipitation, temperature, soil moisture and antecedent streamflow data are combined with snowpack data to prepare runoff forecasts. Streamflow forecasts are coordinated by Natural Resources Conservation Service and National Weather Service hydrologists. This report presents a comprehensive picture of water supply conditions for areas dependent upon surface runoff. It includes selected streamflow forecasts, summarized snowpack and precipitation data, reservoir storage data, and narratives describing current conditions.

Snowpack data are obtained by using a combination of manual and automated SNOTEL measurement methods. Manual readings of snow depth and water equivalent are taken at locations called snow courses on a monthly or semi-monthly schedule during the winter. In addition, snow water equivalent, precipitation and temperature are monitored on a daily basis and transmitted via meteor burst telemetry to central data collection facilities. Both monthly and daily data are used to project snowmelt runoff.

Forecast uncertainty originates from two sources: (1) uncertainty of future hydrologic and climatic conditions, and (2) error in the forecasting procedure. To express the uncertainty in the most probable forecast, four additional forecasts are provided. The actual streamflow can be expected to exceed the most probable forecast 50% of the time. Similarly, the actual streamflow volume can be expected to exceed the 90% forecast volume 90% of the time. The same is true for the 70%, 30%, and 10% forecasts. Generally, the 90% and 70% forecasts reflect drier than normal hydrologic and climatic conditions; the 30% and 10% forecasts reflect wetter than normal conditions. As the forecast season progresses, a greater portion of the future hydrologic and climatic uncertainty will become known and the additional forecasts will move closer to the most probable forecast.

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Bozeman, Montana

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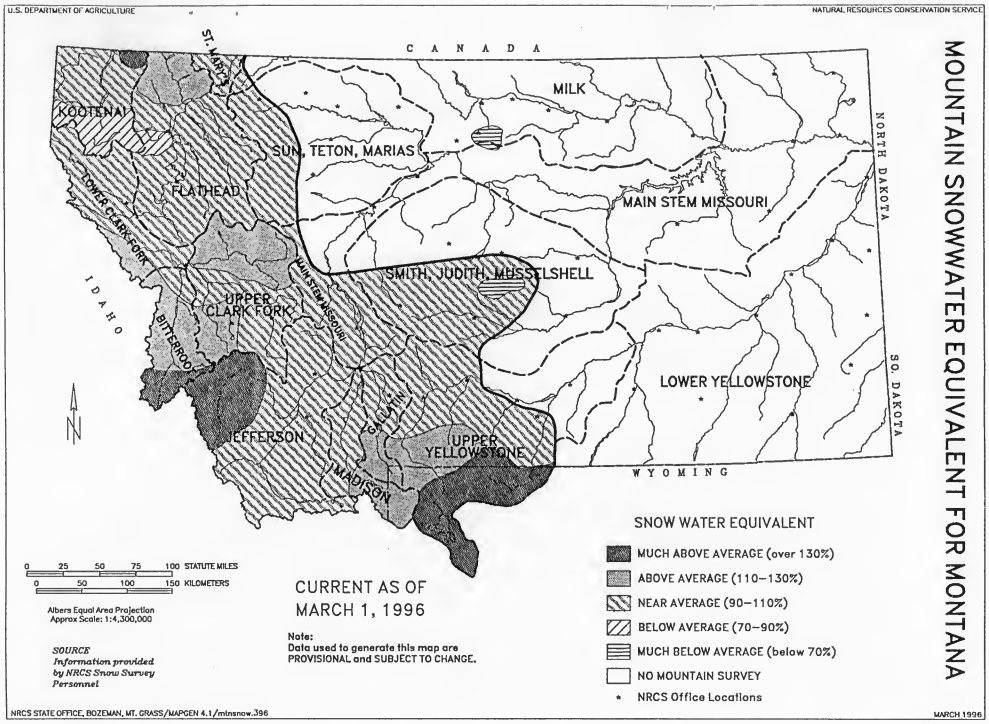
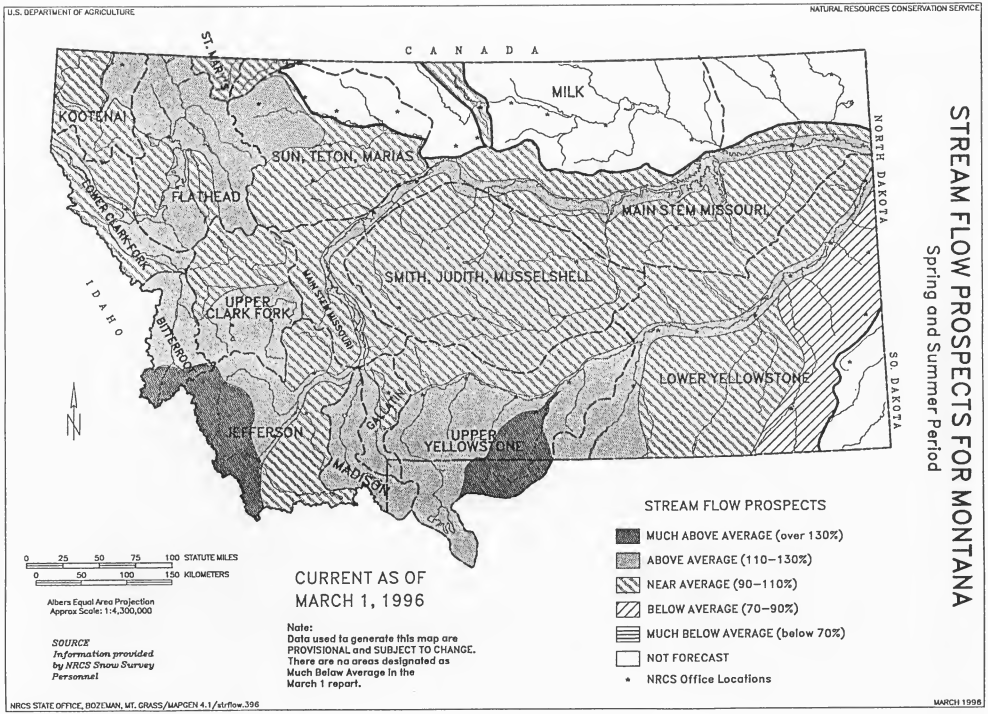
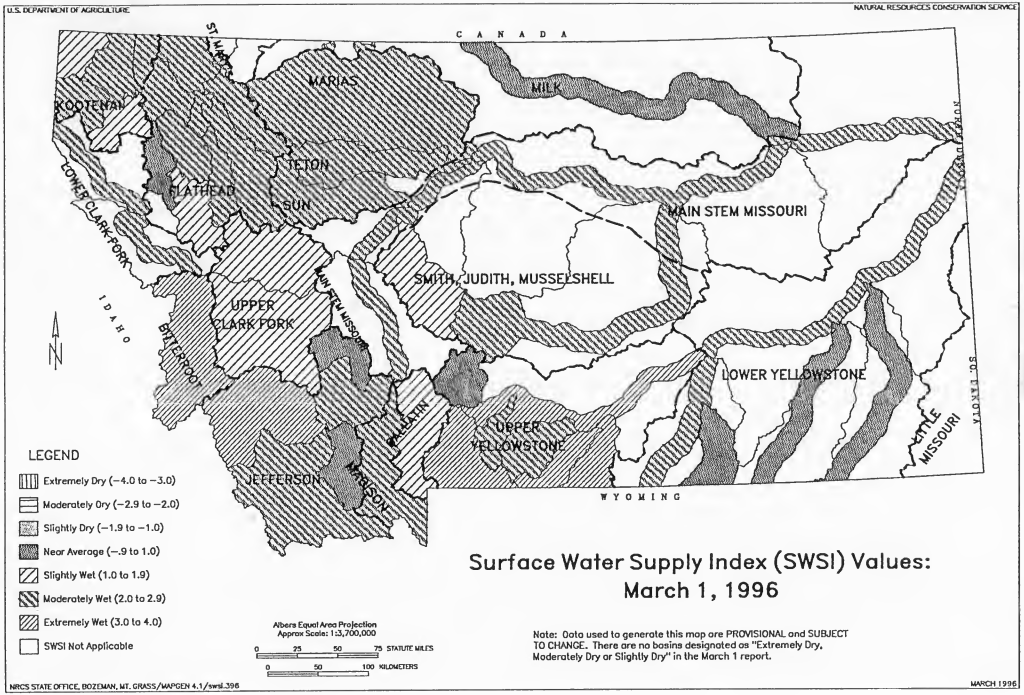

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
MOUNTAIN SNOWWATER EQUIVALENT FOR MONTANA
CANADA
ST. MARYS
MILK
KOOTENAI
SUN, TETON, MARIAS
FLATHEAD
MAIN STEM MISSOURI
NORTH DAKOTA
LOWER CLARK FORK
SMITH, JUDITH, MUSSELSHELL
IDAHO
UPPER CLARK FORK
MAINSTEM MISSOURI
BITTERROOT
LOWER YELLOWSTONE
SO. DAKOTA
JEFFERSON
BIG HOLE
UPPER YELLOWSTONE
MADISON
WYOMING
N
0 25 50 75 100 STATUTE MILES
0 50 100 150 KILOMETERS
Albers Equal Area Projection
Approx Scale: 1:4,300,000
SOURCE
Information provided by NRCS Snow Survey Personnel
CURRENT AS OF MARCH 1, 1996
Note:
Data used to generate this map are PROVISIONAL and SUBJECT TO CHANGE.
SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT
MUCH ABOVE AVERAGE (over 130%)
ABOVE AVERAGE (110–130%)
NEAR AVERAGE (90–110%)
BELOW AVERAGE (70–90%)
MUCH BELOW AVERAGE (below 70%)
NO MOUNTAIN SURVEY
NRCS Office Locations
NRCS STATE OFFICE, BOZEMAN, MT. GRASS/MAPGEN 4.1/mtsnow.396
MARCH 1996


U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
STREAM FLOW PROSPECTS FOR MONTANA
Spring and Summer Period
CANADA
ST. MARY'S
MILK
KOOTENAI
SUN, TETON, MARIAS
FLATHEAD
MAIN STEM MISSOURI
NORTH DAKOTA
LOWER CLARK FORK
IDAHO
SMITH, JUDITH, MUSSELSHELL
MAINSTEM MISSOURI
UPPER CLARK FORK
BITTERROOT
LOWER YELLOWSTONE
SO. DAKOTA
N
JEFFERSON
GALLATIN
UPPER YELLOWSTONE
MADISON
STREAM FLOW PROSPECTS
MUCH ABOVE AVERAGE (over 130%)
ABOVE AVERAGE (110–130%)
NEAR AVERAGE (90–110%)
BELOW AVERAGE (70–90%)
MUCH BELOW AVERAGE (below 70%)
NOT FORECAST
NRCS Office Locations
0 25 50 75 100 STATUTE MILES
0 50 100 150 KILOMETERS
Albers Equal Area Projection
Approx Scale: 1:4,300,000
SOURCE
Information provided by NRCS Snow Survey Personnel
CURRENT AS OF MARCH 1, 1996
Note:
Data used to generate this map are PROVISIONAL and SUBJECT TO CHANGE. There are no areas designated as Much Below Average in the March 1 report.
NRCS STATE OFFICE, BOZEMAN, MT. GRASS/MAPGEN 4.1/strflow.396
MARCH 1996


U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CANADA
ST MARY
MARIAS
MILK
KOOTENAI
TETON
FLATHEAD
SUN
LOWER CLARK FORK
MAIN STEM MISSOURI
SMITH, JUDITH, MUSSELSHELL
UPPER CLARK FORK
MAIN STEM MISSOURI
IDAHO
BITTERROOT
LOWER YELLOWSTONE
BIG HORN
UPPER YELLOWSTONE
LITTLE MISSOURI
JEFFERSON
MADISON
WYOMING
LEGEND
Extremely Dry (−4.0 to −3.0)
Moderately Dry (−2.9 to −2.0)
Slightly Dry (−1.9 to −1.0)
Near Average (−.9 to 1.0)
Slightly Wet (1.0 to 1.9)
Moderately Wet (2.0 to 2.9)
Extremely Wet (3.0 to 4.0)
SWSI Not Applicable
Albers Equal Area Projection
Approx Scale: 1:3,700,000
0 25 50 75 STATUTE MILES
0 50 100 KILOMETERS
Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI) Values:
March 1, 1996
Note: Data used to generate this map are PROVISIONAL and SUBJECT TO CHANGE. There are no basins designated as "Extremely Dry, Moderately Dry or Slightly Dry" in the March 1 report.
NRCS STATE OFFICE, BOZEMAN, MT. GRASS/WAPGEN 4.1/swsi.396
MARCH 1996

BASIN SUMMARY OF SNOW COURSE DATA

MARCH 1996

SNOW COURSE	ELEVATION	DATE	SNOW DEPTH	WATER CONTENT	LAST YEAR	AVERAGE 1961-90
MONTANA						
ABUNDANCE LAKE	8800	3/02/96	66	23.2	20.2	16.8
AMBROSE	6480	2/28/96	40	10.8	7.8	11.0
ASHLEY LAKE	4000	2/27/96	19	5.6	3.6	6.1
ARCH FALLS	7350	2/29/96	36	9.7	7.9	9.8
ASHLEY DIVIDE	4820	2/27/96	22	5.6	2.8	6.4
BADGER PASS PILLOW	6900	3/01/96	---	34.4	29.4	30.8
BANFIELD MTN PILLOW	5600	3/01/96	---	18.8	16.3	17.4
BAREE MIDWAY	4600	2/27/96	63	21.4	22.4	30.5
BAREE TRAIL	3800	2/27/96	15	5.1E	5.2	8.6
BARKER LAKES PILLOW	8250	2/01/96	---	12.6	11.5	12.2
BASIN CREEK PILLOW	7180	3/01/96	---	6.3	8.9	6.5
BASSOO PEAK	5150	2/28/96	28	8.2	5.1	10.0
BEAGLE SPGS PILLOW	8850	3/01/96	---	8.7	6.1	6.8
BEAR BASIN	8150	2/28/96	64	20.2	14.2	17.6
BEAVER CREEK PILLOW	7850	3/01/96	---	16.8	16.0	14.8
BERRY MEADOW	7000	2/29/96	29	6.6	5.2	6.5
BIG CREEK	6750	2/29/96	103	40.9	36.7	37.4
BISSON CREEK PILLOW	4920	3/01/96	---	7.8	5.5	9.7
BISSON CREEK	4920	2/26/96	28	9.0	7.1	8.1
BLACK BEAR PILLOW	7950	3/01/96	---	40.3	46.7	31.7
BLACK MOUNTAIN	7750	3/01/96	44	11.0	11.0	12.2
BLACK PINE PILLOW	7100	3/01/96	---	13.9	8.0	10.5
BLACKTAIL	5650	2/27/96	39	11.9	9.1	12.6
BLOODY DICK PILLOW	7550	3/01/96	---	15.4	10.8	10.7
BLUE LAKE	5900	3/01/96	---	26.5E	19.8	22.0
BOTS SOTS	7750	2/29/96	40	9.0	7.0	6.3
BOULDER MTN PILLOW	7950	3/01/96	---	19.1	17.0	17.0
BOX CANYON PILLOW	6700	3/01/96	---	11.6	5.9	8.8
BOX CANYON	6670	3/05/96	47	12.2	7.1	10.2
BOXELDER CREEK	5100	2/27/96	18	4.1	2.0	7.4
BRANHAM LAKES	8850	2/27/96	95	33.2	26.2	24.5
BRIDGER BOWL PILLOW	7250	2/28/96	---	20.6	18.0	20.6
BRIDGER BOWL	7250	2/28/96	69	21.8	19.5	21.5
BRUSH CREEK TIMBER	5000	3/01/96	23	5.6	4.4	8.6
BULL MOUNTAIN	6600	2/29/96	20	5.5	5.3	5.2
CABIN CREEK	5200	2/29/96	19	5.8	1.9	6.0
CALL ROAD	8050	3/02/96	38	10.5	9.9	9.4
CALVERT CR PILLOW	6430	3/01/96	---	11.0	6.7	8.0
CAMP SENIA	7890	2/29/96	33	7.9	6.4	4.6
CARROT BASIN PILLOW	9000	3/01/96	---	28.2	26.3	22.6
CARTER CREEK	7400	3/04/96	18	4.0	7.8	3.9
CHESSMAN RESERVOIR	6200	2/26/96	6	.5	.3	3.4
CHICKEN CREEK	4060	2/23/96	54	15.9	12.1	14.3
CLOVER MDW PILLOW	8800	3/01/96	---	15.7	15.3	14.9
COLE CREEK PILLOW	7850	3/01/96	---	15.9	14.1	12.9
COMBINATION PILLOW	5600	3/01/96	---	3.6	2.1	5.1
COPPER BOTTOM PILLOW	5200	3/01/96	---	11.0	6.8	10.0
COPPER BOTTOM	5200	2/29/96	33	9.6	6.1	10.4
COPPER CAMP PILLOW	6950	3/01/96	---	37.6	22.8	29.8
COPPER CREEK	5700	2/29/96	43	13.8	7.4	13.4
COPPER MOUNTAIN	7700	2/28/96	44	11.2	10.4	9.1

SNOW COURSE	ELEVATION	DATE	SNOW DEPTH	WATER CONTENT	LAST YEAR	AVERAGE 1961-90
COTTONWOOD CREEK	6400	2/28/96	17	4.0	6.2	6.5
COYOTE HILL	4200	3/01/96	30	8.8	5.2	9.5
CREVICE MOUNTAIN	8400	2/28/96	43	10.4	7.8	9.0
CRYSTAL LAKE PILLOW	6050	3/01/96	---	5.7	8.9	10.7
CRYSTAL LAKE	6050	3/01/96	30	7.0	7.2	11.4
DAD CREEK LAKE	8400	3/01/96	45	14.8	14.2	11.0
DAISY PEAK	7600	3/04/96	39	9.0	5.7	9.0
DALY CREEK PILLOW	5780	3/01/96	---	9.7	6.5	10.0
DARKHORSE LK. PILLOW	8700	3/01/96	---	33.3	26.2	27.9
DAVIS CREEK	5400	2/27/96	69	24.4	12.1	21.1
DEADMAN CR PILLOW	6450	3/01/96	---	8.3	6.2	8.6
DESERT MOUNTAIN	5600	3/03/96	35	10.4	9.2	13.2
DISCOVERY BASIN	7050	2/29/96	40	10.4	7.7	8.6
DIVIDE PILLOW	7800	3/01/96	---	8.8	9.3	8.9
DIVIDE	7800	2/29/96	30	9.6	10.4	9.1
DIX HILL	6400	2/25/96	33	9.5	6.1	10.7
DUPUYER CREEK PILLOW	5750	3/01/96	---	10.7	4.7	10.6
EAST FORK R.S.	5400	2/25/96	22	6.7	2.9	6.0
EL DORADO MINE	7800	2/24/96	63	17.2	15.6	16.7
ELK HORN SPRINGS	7800	3/02/96	41	11.2	7.2	7.8
ELK PEAK	8000	2/28/96	52	14.0	10.2	13.4
EMERY CREEK PILLOW	4350	3/01/96	---	9.0	9.4	14.0
FATTY CREEK	5500	2/29/96	57	18.6	17.4	20.2
FISHER CREEK PILLOW	9100	3/01/96	---	40.4	28.6	30.3
FIVE-BULL	5700	2/28/96	18	3.9	1.4	5.8
FLATTOP MTN PILLOW	6300	3/01/96	---	49.1	38.8	40.9
FLEECER RIDGE	7500	2/29/96	44	13.4	10.0	9.0
FOOLHEN	8280	3/02/96	55	17.2	15.0	13.8
FOUR MILE	6900	2/27/96	27	6.4	6.2	7.1
FOURTH OF JULY	3450	2/26/96	22	7.7	4.7	8.6
FREIGHT CREEK	6000	3/01/96	---	14.8E	10.6	12.9
FROHNER MDWS PILLOW	6480	3/01/96	---	7.3	4.4	7.2
GARVER CREEK PILLOW	4250	2/27/96	---	10.0	7.0	9.2
GARVER CREEK	4250	2/27/96	42	10.6	8.8	9.9
GOAT MOUNTAIN	7000	3/01/96	34	9.4	4.8	9.2
GRASSHOPPER	7000	2/28/96	18	4.4	4.2	4.9
GRAVE CRK PILLOW	4300	3/01/96	---	14.5	12.2	15.2
GRIFFIN CR DIVIDE	5150	2/28/96	30	8.9	5.8	10.0
HAND CREEK PILLOW	5030	3/01/96	---	10.9	8.3	10.9
HAND CREEK	5030	3/01/96	37	10.6	--	11.5
HAWKINS LAKE PILLOW	6450	3/01/96	---	24.8	18.9	24.2
HEBGEN DAM	6550	2/28/96	37	9.9	11.5	10.8
HELL ROARING DIVIDE	5770	2/28/96	84	29.2	26.0	26.4
HERRIG JUNCTION	4850	2/23/96	85	27.8	22.7	21.7
HOLBROOK	4530	3/01/96	26	8.3	4.5	8.8
HOODOO BASIN PILLOW	6050	3/01/96	---	47.3	33.7	39.7
HOODOO BASIN	6050	3/01/96	---	51.0E	34.5	42.7
HOODOO CREEK	5900	3/01/96	---	46.4E	29.9	39.2
INDEPENDENCE	7850	3/05/96	70	18.5	12.2	15.6
INTERGAARD	6450	3/01/96	19	5.6	5.3	6.8
JOHNSON PARK	6450	3/04/96	23	4.6	3.0	6.4
KISHENEHN	3890	2/24/96	32	8.0	7.6	7.5
KIWANIS CAMP	3720	2/27/96	4	.3	.0	1.8
KRAFT CREEK PILLOW	4750	3/01/96	---	11.1	7.9	14.5
LAKE CREEK	6100	2/29/96	24	8.8	7.8	7.4
LAKEVIEW CANYON	6930	3/01/96	30	6.8	9.6	9.4
LAKEVIEW RDG. PILLOW	7400	3/01/96	---	9.3	10.6	10.3

SNOW COURSE	ELEVATION	DATE	SNOW DEPTH	WATER CONTENT	LAST YEAR	AVERAGE 1961-90
LAKEVIEW RIDGE	7400	3/01/96	28	6.7	10.5	8.6
LEMHI RIDGE PILLOW	8100	3/01/96	---	10.2	9.6	8.9
LEMHI RIDGE	8100	3/01/96	40	10.7	10.0	8.7
LICK CREEK PILLOW	6860	3/01/96	---	7.9	8.8	10.7
LITTLE PARK	7400	2/28/96	51	14.4	11.4	13.4
LOGAN CREEK	4300	3/01/96	24	6.4	4.0	6.7
LONE MOUNTAIN	8880	2/28/96	78	27.4	17.2	19.9
LOWER TWIN PILLOW	7900	3/01/96	---	19.5	16.8	15.0
LUBRECHT PILLOW	4680	3/01/96	---	6.2	3.2	5.8
LUBRECHT FLUME	4680	2/29/96	17	5.4	2.4	5.4
LUBRECHT FOREST NO 3	5450	3/01/96	19	5.8	2.6	6.3
LUBRECHT FOREST NO 4	4650	3/01/96	7	2.2	.3	3.1
LUBRECHT FOREST NO 6	4040	3/01/96	11	3.8	.5	3.7
LUBRECHT HYDROPLOT	4200	2/29/96	19	6.2	2.5	6.4
MADISON PLT PILLOW	7750	3/01/96	---	23.6	26.3	20.6
MANY GLACIER PILLOW	4900	3/01/96	---	11.6	9.5	14.8
MARIAS PASS	5250	2/29/96	43	15.0	11.4	14.9
MAYNARD CR PILLOW	6210	2/28/96	---	10.1	5.6	9.1
MAYNARD CREEK	6210	2/28/96	33	9.3	7.7	12.4
MIDDLE MILL CREEK	7850	2/27/96	51	14.9	13.7	13.5
MILL CREEK	7500	2/29/96	45	12.1	8.6	10.2
MINERAL CREEK	4000	2/23/96	52	16.8	13.2	15.9
MONUMENT PK PILLOW	8850	3/01/96	---	22.6	16.2	17.8
MOSS PEAK PILLOW	6780	3/01/96	---	37.6	35.7	31.4
MT LOCKHART PILLOW	6400	3/01/96	---	21.7	14.8	18.0
MOUNT LOCKHART	6400	3/03/96	70	23.6	17.2	19.7
MULE CREEK PILLOW	8300	3/01/96	---	19.6	13.4	13.2
MULE CREEK	8300	3/01/96	62	17.7	13.2	12.7
NEVADA CREEK PILLOW	6480	3/01/96	---	14.5	8.4	11.2
NEVADA CREEK	6480	2/23/96	48	14.6	8.7	11.6
NEW WORLD	6900	2/29/96	42	11.2	10.5	12.0
NEWTON MOUNTAIN	5600	2/26/96	89	31.0	28.6	29.0
NEZ PERCE CMP PILLOW	5650	3/01/96	---	15.8	9.9	13.0
NEZ PERCE CREEK	6600	2/28/96	24	6.6	5.1	5.9
NEZ PERCE PASS	6570	2/28/96	53	15.7	7.0	14.6
NOISY BASIN PILLOW	6040	3/01/96	---	37.4	33.8	33.7
N.F. ELK CR PILLOW	6250	3/01/96	---	12.2	7.5	10.8
N.F. ELK CREEK	6250	2/29/96	40	12.1	7.4	10.5
NF JOCKO PILLOW	6330	3/01/96	---	43.3	27.2	40.3
NORTH FORK JOCKO	6330	2/29/96	115	45.2	26.4	38.2
N.E. ENTRANCE PILLOW	7350	3/01/96	---	10.1	6.9	8.1
NORTHEAST ENTRANCE	7350	2/29/96	40	12.6	6.9	8.1
NOTCH	8500	2/29/96	45	13.8	15.6	12.4
OPHIR PARK	7150	2/25/96	51	15.6	9.0	14.7
PETERSON MDW PILLOW	7200	2/29/96	---	8.3	7.7	8.5
PETERSON MEADOWS	7200	2/29/96	31	7.8	7.4	8.4
PICKFOOT CRK PILLOW	6650	3/01/96	---	10.6	6.5	9.1
PICKFOOT CREEK	6650	2/29/96	38	9.5	--	9.2
PIKE CREEK PILLOW	5930	3/01/96	---	26.7	19.5	22.8
PIPESTONE PASS	7200	3/01/96	17	4.1	6.3	4.1
PLACER BASIN PILLOW	8830	3/01/96	---	18.0	13.5	15.3
PORCUPINE PILLOW	6500	3/01/96	---	5.1	5.4	6.1
POTOMAGETON PARK	7150	3/01/96	46	12.6	13.1	12.6
RED TOP	5260	2/26/96	78	28.0	24.2	24.0
REVAIS CREEK	4800	3/01/96	5	.7	.0	3.1
ROCK CREEK	5600	3/01/96	22	3.6	6.1	8.7
ROCK CREEK MEADOW	8160	2/29/96	66	20.6	15.5	17.4

SNOW COURSE	ELEVATION	DATE	SNOW DEPTH	WATER CONTENT	LAST YEAR	AVERAGE 1961-90
ROCKER PEAK PILLOW	8000	3/01/96	---	13.8	10.5	12.6
ROCKY BOY PILLOW	4700	2/27/96	---	.1E	.3	4.6
ROCKY BOY	4700	2/27/96	2	.1	.0	4.0
SACAJAWEA	6550	2/29/96	40	11.4	8.5	11.8
SADDLE MTN PILLOW	7900	3/01/96	---	32.7	20.6	21.9
SHORT CREEK PILLOW	7000	3/01/96	---	4.8	5.0	4.9
SHOWER FALLS PILLOW	8100	3/01/96	---	20.0	15.0	18.8
SILVER RUN PILLOW	6630	3/01/96	---	5.3	3.4	5.2
SKALKAHO PILLOW	7260	3/01/96	---	28.9	18.4	20.8
SLIDE ROCK MOUNTAIN	7100	2/24/96	45	12.5	8.8	13.3
SMUGGLER MINE	6960	2/27/96	30	7.3	9.5	8.6
S.F. SHIELDS PILLOW	8100	3/01/96	---	15.8	11.9	14.2
SPOTTED BEAR MTN.	7000	3/01/96	---	14.6E	7.7	13.3
SPUR PARK PILLOW	8100	3/01/96	---	20.2	14.0	18.6
SQUAW PEAK	6150	3/01/96	47	15.0	9.1	13.0
STAHL PEAK PILLOW	6030	3/01/96	---	43.5	31.5	30.2
STEMPLE PASS	6600	2/27/96	31	7.6	5.6	8.5
STORM LAKE	7780	2/29/96	48	13.0	10.2	10.8
STRYKER BASIN	6180	2/23/96	102	34.0	29.1	28.5
STUART MOUNTAIN	7400	2/29/96	101	37.6	20.6	27.4
SUCKER CREEK	3960	2/27/96	5	.5	.0	.4
TAYLOR ROAD	4080	2/27/96	4	.4	.0	3.1
TEN MILE LOWER	6600	2/26/96	19	4.2	5.4	6.3
TEN MILE MIDDLE	6800	2/26/96	40	9.4	8.6	9.5
TEPEE CREEK PILLOW	8000	3/01/96	---	11.1	13.0	10.9
TEPEE CREEK	8000	2/29/96	45	15.2	14.6	12.5
TIMBERLINE CREEK	8850	2/29/96	55	14.7	13.2	11.5
TIZER BASIN PILLOW	6840	3/01/96	---	9.4	7.1	9.6
TRAIL CREEK	7090	3/01/96	25	7.3	8.0	6.9
TRINKUS LAKE	6100	3/01/96	---	41.1E	34.3	36.7
TRUMAN CREEK	4060	3/01/96	13	3.9	1.2	5.0
TV MOUNTAIN	6800	2/29/96	58	17.2	11.6	15.6
TWELVEMILE PILLOW	5600	3/01/96	---	13.1	8.6	16.4
TWENTY-ONE MILE	7150	2/27/96	56	15.2	17.6	14.9
TWIN CREEKS	3580	3/01/96	---	6.4E	7.0	10.7
UPPER HOLLAND LAKE	6200	3/01/96	---	34.7E	22.6	30.4
WALDRON PILLOW	5600	3/01/96	---	10.5	6.6	10.0
WALDRON	5600	3/03/96	29	8.0	5.2	9.0
WARM SPRINGS PILLOW	7800	3/01/96	---	26.4	14.5	18.2
WEASEL DIVIDE	5450	3/03/96	98	40.4	28.2	29.5
WEST YELL'ST PILLOW	6700	2/26/96	---	9.3	9.6	7.9
WEST YELLOWSTONE	6700	2/27/96	36	9.3	13.4	10.3
WHISKEY CREEK PILLOW	6800	3/01/96	---	14.9	18.9	14.5
WHITE MILL PILLOW	8700	3/01/96	---	30.3	19.7	21.2
WHITE PINE RIDGE	8850	3/01/96	16	4.3	4.8	4.4
WILLOW CREEK	6500	3/01/96	27	7.0	4.6	7.1
WOOD CREEK PILLOW	5960	3/01/96	---	8.6	5.6	9.7
WRONG CREEK	5700	2/27/96	47	14.2	6.4	12.0
WRONG RIDGE	6800	2/28/96	60	17.8	9.1	16.6

MONTANA Water Supply Outlook Report as of March 1, 1996

February has been a month of extremes. The first part of February had well below average temperatures leading to new record highs during the second week. During the second week there was wide spread flooding, namely from ice jams and low elevation snowmelt. During the end of the third week, winter returned again and snowpack increases were seen across the state. During the first part of the fourth week, Montana received another blast of cold Canadian air and temperatures plummeted well below average (-20's to -30's) once again.

SNOWPACK

As of February 1, mountain snow water content across Montana was 11 percent above average and 27 percent above last year, but has dropped 3 percent during February. Several stations have broken their all time snow water content records in the Beartooth and Bighorn Mountains of Montana and Wyoming. Many others are also ranking in the top five years of the historical record.

Snowpack extremes occurred in the Milk River Basin where the snowpack was 40 percent below average, but much above last year, and in Upper Yellowstone River Basin where the snowpack in the Clark's Fork was 43 percent above average, with several new snow water content records being recorded.

West of the Continental Divide, snow water content was 7 percent above average and 32 percent above last year dropping 3 percent during February. East of the Continental Divide snow water content was 14 percent above average and 22 percent above last year dropping 6 percent during February.

With about 80 percent of the winter snowpack in place, the spring and summer surface water supply looks good to excellent in most areas. Even though some areas currently have average to below average snowpacks, there is good reservoir storage and water shortages are not expected at this time.

RIVER BASIN	% OF AVERAGE	% OF LAST YEAR
COLUMBIA	107	133
KOOTENAI	105	119
FLATHEAD	110	130
UPPER CLARK FORK	110	146
BITTERROOT	118	158
LOWER CLARK FORK	106	143
MISSOURI	108	117
MISSOURI HEADWATERS	113	108
JEFFERSON	119	113
MADISON	113	100
GALLATIN	106	118
MISSOURI MAINSTEM	99	144
HEADWATERS MAINSTEM	101	127
SMITH-JUDITH-MUSSELSHELL	93	120
SUN-TETON-MARIAS	109	150
MILK	60	868
ST. MARY	108	126
YELLOWSTONE	121	128
UPPER YELLOWSTONE	129	135
LOWER YELLOWSTONE (WYOMING)	118	124

SNOWPACK (continued)

RIVER BASIN	% OF AVERAGE	% OF LAST YEAR
WIND	125	135
SHOSHONE	162	152
BIGHORN	124	126
TONGUE	101	113
POWDER	95	87

PRECIPITATION

February precipitation across the state was 32 percent above average and the water year precipitation was 40 percent above average.
West of the Continental Divide, February precipitation was 57 percent above average and 83 percent above last year and water year precipitation was 51 percent above average and 45 percent above last year. East of the Continental Divide, February precipitation was 24 percent above average and 49 percent above last year, and water year precipitation was 36 percent above average and 26 percent above last year.

RIVER BASIN	FEBRUARY % OF AVERAGE	WATER YEAR % OF AVERAGE
COLUMBIA	155	151
KOOTENAI	163	154
FLATHEAD	145	151
UPPER CLARK FORK	126	137
BITTERROOT	164	159
LOWER CLARK FORK	186	158
MISSOURI	118	125
JEFFERSON	115	124
MADISON	99	118
GALLATIN	99	123
MISSOURI MAINSTEM	102	110
SMITH-JUDITH-MUSSELSHELL	107	115
SUN-TETON-MARIAS	156	137
MILK	83	139
ST. MARY	153	156
YELLOWSTONE	102	126
UPPER YELLOWSTONE	113	134
LOWER YELLOWSTONE	95	123
WIND	84	121
SHOSHONE	144	160
BIGHORN	74	101

RESERVOIRS

Major reservoir storage across the state was 28 percent above average and 56 percent above last year. West of the Continental Divide, reservoirs were 30 percent above average and 32 percent above last year. East of the Continental Divide, reservoirs were 24 percent above average and 22 percent above last year.

RIVER BASIN	% OF AVERAGE	% OF LAST YEAR
COLUMBIA	130	132
KOOTENAI	132	90
FLATHEAD	129	162
UPPER CLARK FORK	127	113

RESERVOIRS (continued)

RIVER BASIN	% OF AVERAGE	% OF LAST YEAR
BITTERROOT	152	195
LOWER CLARK FORK	109	101
MISSOURI	130	127
JEFFERSON	116	147
MADISON	100	97
GALLATIN	163	--
MISSOURI MAINSTEM	102	100
SMITH-JUDITH-MUSSELSHELL	143	136
SUN-TETON-MARIAS	144	129
MILK	145	151
ST. MARY	143	180
YELLOWSTONE	100	93
UPPER YELLOWSTONE	97	82
LOWER YELLOWSTONE	102	104

STREAMFLOW

Streamflow forecasts across Montana were 17 percent above average and 44 percent above last years forecasts. West of the Continental Divide, streamflows are forecast to be 20 percent above average and 58 percent above last years forecasts. East of the Continental Divide, streamflows are forecast to be 15 percent above average and 30 percent above last years forecasts.

RIVER BASIN	FORECASTS % OF AVERAGE	FORECASTS % OF LAST YEAR
COLUMBIA	120	158
KOOTENAI	122	139
FLATHEAD	122	153
UPPER CLARK FORK	104	150
BITTERROOT	128	176
LOWER CLARK FORK	122	170
MISSOURI	112	129
JEFFERSON	122	128
MADISON	117	101
GALLATIN	111	111
MISSOURI MAINSTEM	120	134
SMITH-JUDITH-MUSSELSHELL	109	133
SUN-TETON-MARIAS	112	142
MILK	101	156
ST. MARY	106	126
YELLOWSTONE	127	133
UPPER YELLOWSTONE	130	137
LOWER YELLOWSTONE	124	129

NOTE: The FORECAST AS % OF LAST YEAR column above, is this years forecast as a percent of last years forecast, not of what actually occurred.

SURFACE WATER SUPPLY INDEX

The Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI) is a measure of available surface water availability for the spring and summer months. Water users that rely on mountain precipitation can use the index to evaluate seasonal surface water supplies. The SWSI accounts for mountain snowpack, mountain precipitation, streamflow, reservoir storage, and soil moisture.

SWSI RATING	SURFACE WATER CONDITION
+3.0 to +4.0	Extremely Wet
+2.0 to +3.0	Moderately Wet
+1.0 to +2.0	Slightly Wet
-1.0 to +1.0	Near Average
-1.0 to -2.0	Slightly Dry
-2.0 to -3.0	Moderately Dry
-3.0 to -4.0	Extremely Dry

SWSI's on March 1, were ranging from -0.4 to +3.2 statewide. West of the Continental Divide, SWSI's were ranging from +0.3 to +3.1 and east of the Continental Divide from -0.4 to +3.2.

SWSI	Basin
+2.3	Kootenai River at Ft. Steele (Kootenai in Canada)
+2.5	Tobacco River
+2.4	Kootenai Ft. Steele to Libby Dam
+2.6	Kootenai River below Libby Dam
+1.1	Fisher River
+1.4	Yaak River
+2.2	North Fork Flathead River
+2.0	Middle FORK Flathead River
+2.2	South Fork Flathead River
+2.1	Flathead River at Columbia Falls
+2.8	Stillwater/Whitefish Rivers
+2.0	Swan River
+2.4	Flathead River at Polson
+1.6	Mission Valley
+0.3	Little Bitterroot River
+1.2	Clark Fork River above Rock Creek
+1.6	Blackfoot River
+1.4	Clark Fork River above Missoula
+3.1	Bitterroot River
+2.0	Clark Fork River below Bitterroot River
+2.5	Clark Fork River below Flathead River
+2.9	Beaverhead River
+0.6	Ruby River
+3.2	Big Hole River
+0.8	Boulder River (Jefferson)
+2.5	Jefferson River
+2.4	Madison River
+1.8	Gallatin River
+2.4	Missouri River above Canyon Ferry
+2.0	Missouri River below Canyon Ferry
+1.7	Smith River
+2.0	Sun River
+2.0	Teton River
+2.6	Birch/Dupuyer Creeks
+2.2	Marias River
+2.0	Musselshell River
+2.6	Missouri River above Ft. Peck
+2.0	Missouri River below Ft. Peck
+0.7	Milk River (USBR users)
+3.4	Yellowstone River above Livingston
+0.9	Shields River
+2.2	Boulder River (Yellowstone)
+2.1	Stillwater River
+3.0	Rock/Red Lodge Creeks

SURFACE WATER SUPPLY INDEX (continued)

SWSI	Basin
+3.2	Clarks Fork River
+3.1	Yellowstone River above Bighorn River
+2.1	Bighorn River below Bighorn Lake
-0.3	Little Bighorn River
+2.8	Yellowstone River below Bighorn River
+0.5	Tongue River
-0.4	Powder River

KOOTENAI RIVER BASIN in Montana as of March 1, 1996

Snowpack conditions in the Kootenai River Basin of Montana and Canada were above average. Snow water content for the Kootenai in Montana was 5 percent above average and 19 percent above last year and has decreased 1 percent during February. Snow water content for the Kootenai in Canada was 23 percent above average and 37 percent above last year.

Mountain precipitation during February was 64 percent above average and 80 percent above last year. Valley precipitation during February was 54 percent above average and 53 percent above last year. Water year precipitation, beginning October 1, 1995, was 54 percent above average and 41 percent above last year.

Lake Koocanusa storage, on the last day of February, was 32 percent above average and 10 percent below last year.

Streamflows, for the period April through July, are forecast to be 22 percent above average and 39 percent above last years forecasts.

Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI) was +2.3 in the Kootenai at Ft. Steele (Kootenai in Canada); +2.5 in the Tobacco River; +2.4 in the Kootenai Ft. Steele to Libby Dam; +2.6 in the Kootenai River below Libby Dam; +1.1 in the Fisher River; and +1.4 in the Yaak River.

Streamflow Forecasts

	<=== Drier ===		Future Conditions		=== Wetter ===>		
Forecast Pt	========== Chance of Exceeding * ==========						
Forecast Period	90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	50% (Most Prob) (1000AF)	(% AVG.)	30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)	30 Yr Avg (1000AF)
TOBACCO RIVER nr Eureka							
APR-JUL	135	150	160	120	170	185	133
APR-SEP	146	163	175	119	187	204	147
LIBBY RES Inflow (1,2)							
APR-JUL	6057	6877	7250	126	7623	8443	5779
APR-SEP	7100	8063	8500	126	8937	9900	6772
FISHER RIVER near Libby							
APR-JUL	208	227	240	103	253	272	234
APR-SEP	223	242	255	102	268	287	250
YAAK RIVER near Troy							
APR-JUL	440	476	500	104	524	560	483
APR-SEP	463	500	525	104	550	587	505

Streamflow Forecasts

Forecast Pt / Forecast Period	<--- Drier --- Future Conditions --- Wetter ---> Chance of Exceeding * 90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	50% (Most Prob) (1000AF)	(% AVG.)	30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)	30 Yr Avg (1000AF)
KOOTENAI at Leonia (1,2)							
APR-JUL	7162	8192	8660	120	9128	10158	7199
APR-SEP	8226	9412	9950	120	10488	11674	8275

* 90%, 70%, 30%, and 10% chances of exceeding are the probabilities that the actual flow will exceed the volumes in the table.

The average is computed for the 1961-1990 base period.

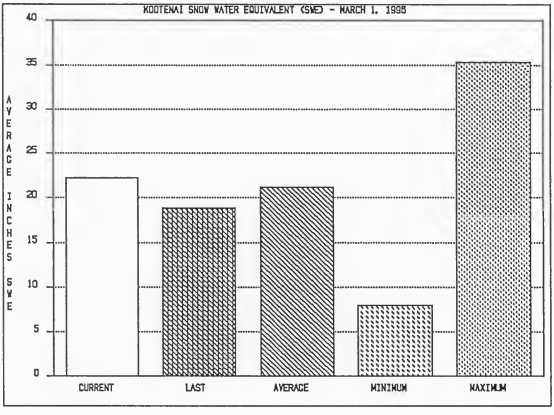
(1) - The values listed under the 10% and 90% Chance of Exceeding are actually 5% and 95% exceedance levels.
(2) - The value is natural flow - actual flow may be affected by upstream water management.

Reservoir Storage (1000AF) End of February

Reservoir	Usable Capacity	********** Usable Storage ********** This Year	Last Year	Average
LAKE KOOCANUSA	5748.0	2534.0	2806.0	1921.0

Watershed Snowpack Analysis

Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as Percent of Last Year	Average
KOOTENAI MAINSTEM	2	93	98
TOBACCO	3	137	131
FISHER	4	107	73
YAAK	6	130	108
KOOTENAI ab BONNERS FERRY	40	128	115
KOOTENAI in MONTANA	15	119	105



AVERAGE IS FOR THE PERIOD 1961-1990.

MINIMUM SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT, 1961-1995, OCCURRED IN WATER YEAR 1977.

MAXIMUM SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT, 1961-1995, OCCURRED IN WATER YEAR 1972.

FLATHEAD RIVER BASIN as of March 1, 1996

Snowpack conditions in the Flathead River Basin of Montana and Canada were average. Snow water content for the Flathead River Basin in Montana was 9 percent above average and 31 percent above last year but dropped 6 percent during February. Snow water content for the Flathead River Basin in Canada was 18 percent above average and 29 percent above last year, dropping 5 percent during February.

Mountain precipitation during February was 47 percent above average and 87 percent above last year. Valley precipitation during February was 18 percent above average and 57 percent above last year. Water year precipitation, beginning October 1, 1995, was 51 percent above average and 42 percent above last year.

Reservoir storage, on the last day of February, was 29 percent above average and 62 percent above last year. Combined Camas reservoir storage was 17 percent above average and 114 percent above last year; combined Mission Valley reservoir storage was 12 percent above average and 44 percent above last year; Hungry Horse storage was 20 percent above average and 53 percent above last year; and Flathead Lake storage was 54 percent above average and 81 percent above last year.

Streamflows, for the period April through July, are forecast to be 22 percent above average and 53 percent above last years forecasts.

Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI) was +2.2 in the North Fork Flathead River; +2.0 in the Middle Fork Flathead River; +2.2 in the South Fork Flathead River; +2.1 in the Flathead River at Columbia Falls; +2.8 in the Stillwater/Whitefish Rivers; +2.0 in the Swan River; +2.4 in the Flathead River at Polson; +1.6 in the Mission Valley; and +0.3 in the Little Bitterroot River.

Streamflow Forecasts

	<--- Drier ---		Future Conditions		--- Wetter --->	
Forecast Pt	Chance of Exceeding *					
Forecast Period	90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	50% (Most Prob) (1000AF)	(% AVG.)	30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)	30 Yr Avg (1000AF)
NF FLATHEAD nr Columbia Falls							
APR-JUL	1876		2050	123	2224		1662
APR-SEP	1707		2280	124	2846		1836
MF FLATHEAD nr West Glacier							
APR-JUL	1831		2040	125	2249		1638
APR-SEP	1627		2230	125	2807		1788
HUNGRY HORSE Reservoir Inflow (1,2)							
APR-JUL	2268		2580	126	2892		2051
APR-SEP	2228		2750	126	3276		2184
FLATHEAD at Columbia Falls (2)							
APR-JUL	6036		6660	122	7284		5482
APR-SEP	5960		7270	122	8582		5960

Streamflow Forecasts

Forecast Pt / Forecast Period	<--- Drier --- Future Conditions --- Wetter ---> Chance of Exceeding * 90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	50% (Most Prob) (1000AF)	(% AVG.)	30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)	30 Yr Avg (1000AF)
STILLWATER nr Whitefish							
APR-JUL	178	203	220	116	237	262	189
APR-SEP	195	225	245	117	265	295	209
WHITEFISH nr Kalispell							
APR-JUL	105	117	125	120	133	145	104
APR-SEP	116	130	140	121	150	164	116
SWAN RIVER near Bigfork							
APR-JUL	540	585	615	106	645	690	583
APR-SEP	595	646	680	102	714	765	665
FLATHEAD Lake Inflow (1,2)							
APR-JUL	6662		7780	122		8898	6390
APR-SEP	6857		8430	122		9973	6926

* 90%, 70%, 30%, and 10% chances of exceeding are the probabilities that the actual flow will exceed the volumes in the table.

The average is computed for the 1961-1990 base period.

(1) - The values listed under the 10% and 90% Chance of Exceeding are actually 5% and 95% exceedance levels.
(2) - The value is natural flow - actual flow may be affected by upstream water management.

Reservoir Storage (1000AF) End of February

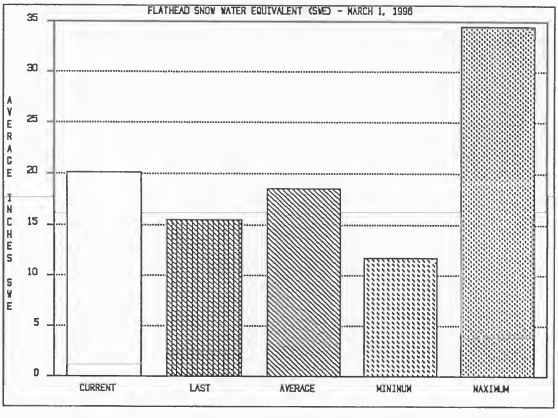
Reservoir	Usable Capacity	********** Usable Storage ********** This Year	Last Year	Average
CAMAS (4)	45.2	24.6	11.5	21.0
MISSION VALLEY (8)	100.0	42.5	29.6	37.8
HUNGRY HORSE	3451.0	2635.0	1721.0	2205.0
FLATHEAD LAKE	1791.0	1354.0	749.2	881.0

Watershed Snowpack Analysis

Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as Percent of Last Year	Average
NORTH FORK in CANADA	5	129	118
NORTH FORK in MONTANA	9	127	119
MIDDLE FORK	6	123	106
SOUTH FORK	7	127	103
STILLWATER-WHITEFISH	10	126	107

Watershed Snowpack Analysis

Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as Percent of Last Year	Average
SWAN	8	123	108
MISSION VALLEY	5	112	105
LITTLE BITTERROOT-ASHLEY	6	160	88
JOCKO	5	166	114
FLATHEAD in MONTANA	41	130	108
FLATHEAD RIVER BASIN	46	130	109



AVERAGE IS FOR THE PERIOD 1961-1990.

MINIMUM SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT, 1961-1995, OCCURRED IN WATER YEAR 1977.

MAXIMUM SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT, 1961-1995, OCCURRED IN WATER YEAR 1972.

UPPER CLARK FORK RIVER BASIN as of March 1, 1996

Snowpack conditions in the Upper Clark Fork River Basin were above average and has dropped 6 percent during February. Snow water content was 10 percent above average and 46 percent above last year.

Mountain precipitation during February was 23 percent above average 93 percent above last year. Valley precipitation during February was 44 percent above average and 59 percent above last year. Water year precipitation, beginning October 1, 1995, was 37 percent above average and 43 percent above last year.

Reservoir storage, on the last day of February, was 27 percent above average and 13 percent above last year. Georgetown Lake storage was 9 percent above average and the same as last year; Lower Willow Creek storage was 65 percent above average and 4 percent above last year; and Nevada Creek storage was 108 percent above average and 79 percent above last year.

Streamflows, for the period April through July, are forecast to be 4 percent above average and 50 percent above last years forecasts.

Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI) was +1.2 in the Clark Fork River above Rock Creek; +1.6 in the Blackfoot River; and +1.4 in the Clark Fork River above Missoula.

Streamflow Forecasts

Forecast Pt / Forecast Period	<=== Drier === Future Conditions === Wetter ===> Chance of Exceeding * 90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	50% (Most Prob) (1000AF)	(% AVG.)	30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)	30 Yr Avg (1000AF)
WARM SPRINGS CK at Anaconda (2)							
APR-JUL	27	34	38	100	43	49	38
APR-SEP	35	42	47	100	52	59	47
LITTLE BLACKFOOT nr Garrison							
APR-JUL	48	76	95	115	114	143	83
APR-SEP	54	84	105	118	126	156	89
FLINT CK nr Southern Cross (2)							
APR-JUL	11.5	15.1	17.5	123	19.9	24	14.2
APR-SEP	13.0	17.5	21	123	24	28	16.7
FLINT CK bl Boulder Ck							
APR-JUL	36	49	58	102	67	80	57
APR-SEP	48	63	74	101	85	100	73
LOWER WILLOW CK RES Inflow							
APR-JUL	7.8	11.2	13.6	97	16.0	19.4	14.0
APR-SEP	8.4	12.0	14.4	97	16.8	20	14.8
MF ROCK CREEK nr Philipsburg							
APR-JUL	60	70	77	117	84	95	66
APR-SEP	66	77	85	115	93	104	74

Streamflow Forecasts

Forecast Pt / Forecast Period	<--- Drier --- Future Conditions --- Wetter ---> Chance of Exceeding * 90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	50% (Most Prob) (1000AF)	(% AVG.)	30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)	30 Yr Avg (1000AF)
ROCK CREEK near Clinton							
APR-JUL	297	343	375	127	407	453	296
APR-SEP	333	385	420	126	455	507	333
NEVADA CK nr Finn							
APR-JUL	11.8	16.2	19.2	101	22	27	19.1
APR-SEP	13.2	17.8	21	100	24	29	21
CLEARWATER nr Clearwater							
APR-JUL	178	191	200	116	209	222	172
APR-SEP	187	201	210	116	219	233	181
BLACKFOOT RIVER near Bonner							
APR-JUL	784		930	111		1076	835
APR-SEP	695		1030	111		1361	926
CLARK FORK ab Milltown							
APR-JUL	461		700	107		939	652
APR-SEP	544		815	108		1110	755
CLARK FORK ab Missoula							
APR-JUL	1247		1620	109		1993	1487
APR-SEP	1210		1840	110		2471	1681

* 90%, 70%, 30%, and 10% chances of exceeding are the probabilities that the actual flow will exceed the volumes in the table.

The average is computed for the 1961-1990 base period.

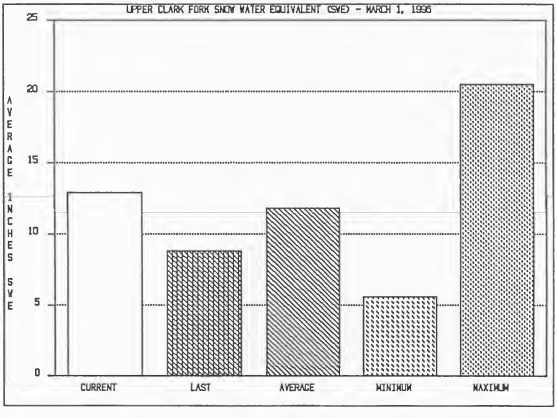
(1) - The values listed under the 10% and 90% Chance of Exceeding are actually 5% and 95% exceedance levels.
(2) - The value is natural flow - actual flow may be affected by upstream water management.

Reservoir Storage (1000AF) End of February

Reservoir	Usable Capacity	********** Usable Storage ********** This Year	Last Year	Average
GEORGETOWN LAKE	31.0	28.0	27.9	25.7
LOWER WILLOW CREEK	4.9	2.8	2.7	1.7
NEVADA CREEK	12.6	10.4	5.8	5.0

Watershed Snowpack Analysis

Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as Percent of Last Year	Average
CLARK FORK ab FLINT CREEK	13	124	105
FLINT CREEK	6	133	108
ROCK CREEK	5	139	114
CLARK FORK ab BLACKFOOT	21	130	108
BLACKFOOT	16	174	111
UPPER CLARK FORK BASIN	35	147	110



AVERAGE IS FOR THE PERIOD 1960-1990.

MINIMUM SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT, 1961-1995, OCCURRED IN WATER YEAR 1977.

MAXIMUM SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT, 1961-1995, OCCURRED IN WATER YEAR 1972.

BITTERROOT RIVER BASIN as of March 1, 1996

Snowpack conditions in the Bitterroot River Basin were above average but has dropped 1 percent during February. Snow water content was 18 percent above average and 58 percent above last year. Several snow data sites are ranked in the top five years of record for March 1. For example, Saddle Mountain is ranked second highest and Skalkaho Summit is third highest for the past thirty six years of record.

Mountain precipitation during February was 64 percent above average and 79 percent above last year. Valley precipitation during February was 70 percent above average and 1 percent below last year. Water year precipitation, beginning October 1, 1995, was 59 percent above average 57 percent above last year.

Reservoir storage, on the last day of February, was 52 percent above average and 95 percent above last year. Painted Rocks Lake storage was 50 percent above average and 426 percent above last year and Como storage was 53 percent above average and 24 percent above last year.

Streamflows, for the period April through July, are forecast to be 28 percent above average and 76 percent above last years forecasts. Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI) was +3.1 in the Bitterroot River.

Streamflow Forecasts

Forecast Pt / Forecast Period	<--- Drier --- Future Conditions --- Wetter ---> Chance of Exceeding * 90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	50% (Most Prob) (1000AF)	(% AVG.)	30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)	30 Yr Avg (1000AF)
WF BITTERROOT nr Conner (2)							
APR-JUL	160	184	200	132	216	240	152
APR-SEP	177	203	220	133	237	263	166
BITTERROOT nr Darby							
APR-JUL	513		620	126		727	491
APR-SEP	580		690	128		800	540
ROCK CK nr Darby (2)							
APR-JUL	70	78	83	105	88	96	79
APR-SEP	75	83	88	106	93	101	83
SKALKAHO CK nr Hamilton							
APR-JUL	49	54	58	126	62	67	46
APR-SEP	57	63	67	126	71	77	53
BURNT FORK CK nr Stevensville (2)							
APR-JUL	30	35	38	131	41	46	29
APR-SEP	36	41	45	132	49	54	34

Streamflow Forecasts

Forecast Pt / Forecast Period	<--- Drier --- 90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	Future Conditions — 50% (Most Prob) (1000AF)	(% AVG.)	--- Wetter ---> 30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)	30 Yr Avg (1000AF)
BITTERROOT at Missoula							
APR-JUL	1461		1680	129		1899	1301
APR-SEP	1262		1840	130		2425	1418

* 90%, 70%, 30%, and 10% chances of exceeding are the probabilities that the actual flow will exceed the volumes in the table.

The average is computed for the 1961-1990 base period.

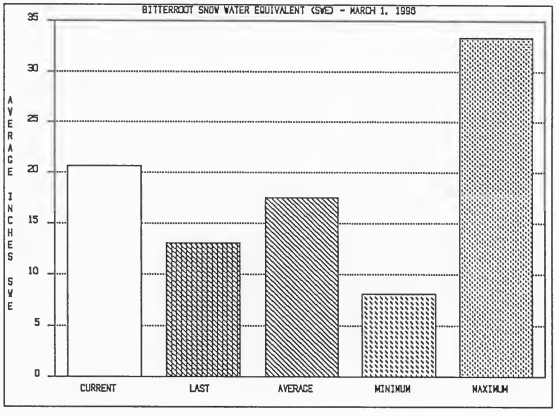
(1) - The values listed under the 10% and 90% Chance of Exceeding are actually 5% and 95% exceedance levels.
(2) - The value is natural flow - actual flow may be affected by upstream water management.

Reservoir Storage (1000AF) End of February

Reservoir	Usable Capacity	********** Usable Storage ********** This Year	Last Year	Average
PAINTED ROCKS LAKE	31.7	18.4	3.5	12.3
COMO	34.9	20.1	16.2	13.1

Watershed Snowpack Analysis

Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as Percent of Last Year	Average
WEST FORK BITTERROOT	3	171	130
EAST SIDE BITTERROOT	5	158	127
WEST SIDE BITTERROOT	3	150	111
BITTERROOT RIVER BASIN	10	158	118



AVERAGE IS FOR THE PERIOD 1961-1990.

MINIMUM SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT, 1961-1995, OCCURRED IN WATER YEAR 1977.

MAXIMUM SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT, 1961-1995, OCCURRED IN WATER YEAR 1972.

LOWER CLARK FORK RIVER BASIN as of March 1, 1996

Snowpack conditions in the Lower Clark Fork River Basin were slightly above average, increasing 5 percent during February. Snow water content was 6 percent above average and 43 percent above last year.

Mountain precipitation during February was 86 percent above average and 110 percent above last year. Valley precipitation during February was 87 percent above average and 63 percent above last year. Water year precipitation, beginning October 1, 1995, was 58 percent above average and 55 percent above last year.

Noxon Rapids storage, on the last day of February, was 9 percent above average and 1 percent above last year.

Streamflows, for the period April through July, are forecast to be 22 percent above average and 70 percent above last years forecasts.

Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI) was +2.0 in the Clark Fork River below Bitterroot River and +2.5 in the Clark Fork River below Flathead River.

Streamflow Forecasts

	<=== Drier ===		Future Conditions		=== Wetter ===>		
Forecast Pt	Chance of Exceeding *						
Forecast Period	90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	50% (Most Prob) (1000AF)	(% AVG.)	30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)	30 Yr Avg (1000AF)
CLARK FORK ab Missoula							
APR-JUL	1247		1620	109		1993	1487
APR-SEP	1210		1840	110		2471	1681
CLARK FORK bl Missoula							
APR-JUL	2727		3290	118		3853	2788
APR-SEP	2789		3680	119		4587	3099
CLARK FORK at St. Regis (1)							
APR-JUL	3019		4280	116		5541	3686
APR-SEP	3399		4800	117		6183	4095
CLARK FORK nr Plains (1,2)							
APR-JUL	9928		12500	120		14943	10450
APR-SEP	10897		13700	119		16402	11470
THOMPSON RIVER nr Thompson Falls							
APR-JUL	229	256	275	129	294	321	214
APR-SEP	256	285	305	127	325	354	240
PROSPECT CREEK at Thompson Falls							
APR-JUL	98	111	120	98	129	142	123
APR-SEP	108	121	130	99	139	152	132

Streamflow Forecasts

Forecast Pt / Forecast Period	<--- Drier --- 90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	Future Conditions --- 50% (Most Prob) (1000AF)	(% AVG.)	--- Wetter ---> 30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)	30 Yr Avg (1000AF)
	Chance of Exceeding *						
CLARK FK at Whitehorse Rpds (1,2)							
APR-JUL	10440		13400	114		16187	11730
APR-SEP	11490		14700	114		17816	12910

* 90%, 70%, 30%, and 10% chances of exceeding are the probabilities that the actual flow will exceed the volumes in the table.

The average is computed for the 1961-1990 base period.

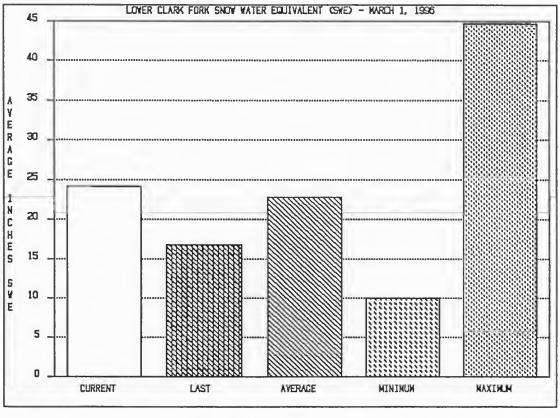
(1) - The values listed under the 10% and 90% Chance of Exceeding are actually 5% and 95% exceedance levels.
(2) - The value is natural flow - actual flow may be affected by upstream water management.

Reservoir Storage (1000AF) End of February

Reservoir	Usable Capacity	********** Usable Storage ********** This Year	Last Year	Average
NOXON RAPIDS	335.0	324.0	321.2	298.1

Watershed Snowpack Analysis

Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as Percent of Last Year	Average
LOWER CLARK FORK	11	141	105



AVERAGE IS FOR THE PERIOD 1961-1990.

MINIMUM SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT, 1961-1995, OCCURRED IN WATER YEAR 1977.

MAXIMUM SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT, 1961-1995, OCCURRED IN WATER YEAR 1972.

JEFFERSON RIVER BASIN as of March 1, 1996

Snowpack conditions in the Jefferson River Basin were above average, staying about the same as last month. Snow water content was 19 percent above average and 13 percent above last year.

Mountain precipitation during February was 13 percent above average and 74 percent above last year. Valley precipitation during February was 57 percent above average and 163 percent above last year. Water year precipitation, beginning October 1, 1995, was 24 percent above average and 9 percent above last year.

Reservoir storage, on the last day of February, was 16 percent above average and 47 percent above last year. Lima storage was 60 percent above average and 335 percent above last year; Clark Canyon storage was 8 percent above average and 22 percent above last year; and Ruby River storage was 7 percent above average and 25 percent above last year.

Streamflows, for the period April through July, are forecast to be 22 percent above average and 28 percent above last years forecasts.

Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI) was +2.9 in the Beaverhead River; +0.6 in the Ruby River; +3.2 in the Big Hole River; +0.8 in the Boulder River; and +2.5 in the Jefferson River as a whole.

Streamflow Forecasts

Forecast Pt	<=== Drier ===		Future Conditions		=== Wetter ===>		
	Chance of Exceeding *						
Forecast Period	90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	50% (Most Prob) (1000AF)	(% AVG.)	30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)	30 Yr Avg (1000AF)
RED ROCK RIVER near Monida (2)							
APR-JUL	68	85	97	100	109	126	97
APR-SEP	70	91	105	100	119	140	105
BEAVERHEAD RIVER near Grant (2)							
APR-JUL	134	158	175	133	192	216	132
APR-SEP	153	184	205	132	226	257	155
BEAVERHEAD RIVER at Barretts (2)							
APR-JUL	166	195	215	125	235	264	172
APR-SEP	199	229	250	123	271	301	203
RUBY RIVER near Alder							
APR-JUL	60	78	90	108	102	120	83
APR-SEP	73	94	108	109	122	143	99
BIG HOLE RIVER near Melrose							
APR-JUL	578	697	778	121	859	978	641
APR-SEP	638	764	850	122	936	1062	697
BOULDER RIVER near Boulder							
APR-JUL	55	76	90	106	104	125	85
APR-SEP	61	83	98	108	113	135	91

Streamflow Forecasts

Forecast Pt / Forecast Period	<=== Drier === Future Conditions === Wetter ===> Chance of Exceeding * 90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	50% (Most Prob) (1000AF)	50% (Most Prob) (% AVG.)	30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)	30 Yr Avg (1000AF)
WILLOW CREEK near Harrison							
APR-JUL	10.0	16.0	20	113	24	30	17.7
APR-SEP	10.7	17.7	23	113	27	34	20
JEFFERSON RIVER near Three Forks (2)							
APR-JUL	819	1016	1150	125	1284	1481	920
APR-SEP	926	1134	1275	126	1416	1624	1012

* 90%, 70%, 30%, and 10% chances of exceeding are the probabilities that the actual flow will exceed the volumes in the table.

The average is computed for the 1961-1990 base period.

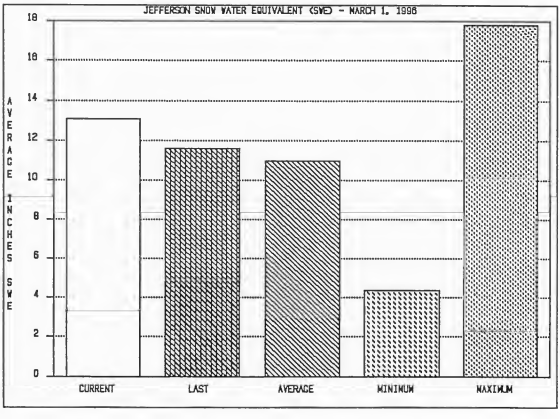
(1) - The values listed under the 10% and 90% Chance of Exceeding are actually 5% and 95% exceedance levels.
(2) - The value is natural flow - actual flow may be affected by upstream water management.

Reservoir Storage (1000AF) End of February

Reservoir	Usable Capacity	********** Usable Storage ********* This Year	Last Year	Average
LIMA	84.0	55.2	12.7	34.5
CLARK CANYON	255.6	158.3	129.4	146.6
RUBY RIVER	38.8	29.1	23.3	27.3

Watershed Snowpack Analysis

Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as Percent of Last Year	Average
BEAVERHEAD	15	104	117
RUBY	10	103	114
BIGHOLE	14	131	132
BOULDER	8	110	106
JEFFERSON RIVER BASIN	39	113	119



AVERAGE IS FOR THE PERIOD 1960-1990.

MINIMUM SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT, 1961-1995, OCCURRED IN WATER YEAR 1977.

MAXIMUM SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT, 1961-1995, OCCURRED IN WATER YEAR 1972.

MADISON RIVER BASIN as of March 1, 1996

Snowpack conditions in the Madison River Basin were above average dropping 7 percent during February. Snow water content was 13 percent above average and the same as last year.

Mountain precipitation during February was 2 percent below average and 43 percent above last year. Valley precipitation during February was 34 percent above average and 226 percent above last year. Water year precipitation, beginning October 1, 1995, was 18 percent above average and 6 percent below last year.

Reservoir storage, on the last day of February, was at average and 3 percent below last year. Ennis Lake storage was 21 percent below average and 11 percent below last year and Hebgen Lake storage was 2 percent above average and 2 percent below last year.

Streamflows, for the period April through July, are forecast to be 17 percent above average and 1 percent above last years forecasts.

Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI) was +2.4 for the Madison River.

Streamflow Forecasts

Forecast Pt / Forecast Period	<--- Drier --- 90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	Future Conditions 50% (Most Prob) (1000AF)	(% AVG.)	--- Wetter ---> 30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)	30 Yr Avg (1000AF)
	Chance of Exceeding *						
MADISON RIVER near Grayling (2)							
APR-JUL	364	403	430	113	457	496	380
APR-SEP	470	518	550	113	582	630	486
MADISON RIVER near McAllister (2)							
APR-JUL	684	744	785	119	826	886	662
APR-SEP	868	935	980	118	1025	1092	831

* 90%, 70%, 30%, and 10% chances of exceeding are the probabilities that the actual flow will exceed the volumes in the table.

The average is computed for the 1961-1990 base period.

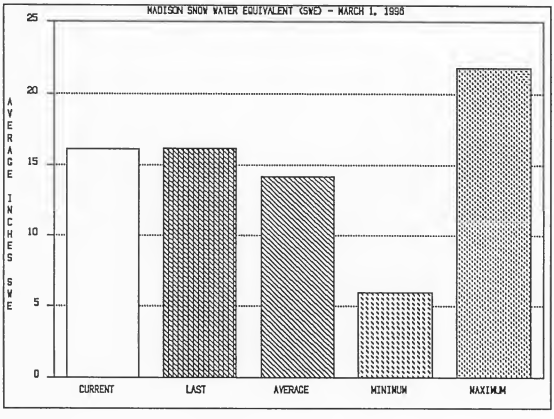
(1) - The values listed under the 10% and 90% Chance of Exceeding are actually 5% and 95% exceedance levels.
(2) - The value is natural flow - actual flow may be affected by upstream water management.

Reservoir Storage (1000AF) End of February

Reservoir	Usable Capacity	********** Usable Storage ********** This Year	Last Year	Average
ENNIS LAKE	41.0	27.1	30.6	34.1
HEBGEN LAKE	377.5	253.9	259.2	247.8

Watershed Snowpack Analysis

Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as Percent of Last Year	Average
MADISON above HEBGEN LAKE	6	91	114
MADISON below HEBGEN LAKE	11	107	113
MADISON RIVER BASIN	17	100	113



AVERAGE IS FOR THE PERIOD 1961-1990.

MINIMUM SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT, 1961-1995, OCCURRED IN WATER YEAR 1977.

MAXIMUM SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT, 1961-1995, OCCURRED IN WATER YEAR 1965.

GALLATIN RIVER BASIN as of March 1, 1996

Snowpack conditions in the Gallatin River Basin were slightly above average but has dropped 6 percent during February. Snow water content was 6 percent above average and 18 percent above last year.

Mountain precipitation during February was 5 percent below average and 84 percent above last year. Valley precipitation during February was 57 percent above average and 192 percent above last year. Water year precipitation, beginning October 1, 1995, was 23 percent above average and 20 percent above last year.

Middle Creek storage, on the last day of February, was 63 percent above average.

Streamflows, for the period April through July, are forecast to be 11 percent above average and 11 percent above last years forecasts.

Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI) was +1.8 for the Gallatin River.

Streamflow Forecasts

Forecast Pt / Period	<== Drier == 90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	Future Conditions 50% (Most Prob) (1000AF)	(% AVG.)	== Wetter ==> 30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)	30 Yr Avg (1000AF)
GALLATIN RIVER near Gateway							
APR-JUL	427	471	500	113	529	573	441
APR-SEP	506	553	585	113	617	664	518
E & W FK HYALITE CREEK near Bozeman							
APR-JUL	18.9	22	24	102	25	28	23
APR-SEP	22	25	27	102	28	31	26
HYALITE CREEK near Bozeman (2)							
APR-JUL	30	34	37	103	40	45	36
APR-SEP	35	40	43	102	46	51	42
GALLATIN RIVER at Logan (2)							
APR-JUL	409	493	550	110	607	691	498
APR-SEP	493	581	640	110	699	787	581

* 90%, 70%, 30%, and 10% chances of exceeding are the probabilities that the actual flow will exceed the volumes in the table.

The average is computed for the 1961-1990 base period.

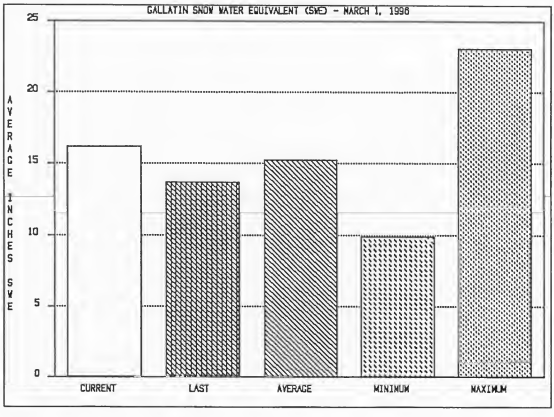
(1) - The values listed under the 10% and 90% Chance of Exceeding are actually 5% and 95% exceedance levels.
(2) - The value is natural flow - actual flow may be affected by upstream water management.

Reservoir Storage (1000AF) End of February

Reservoir	Usable Capacity	********** Usable Storage ********** This Year	Last Year	Average
MIDDLE CREEK	10.2	6.2	----	3.8

Watershed Snowpack Analysis

Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as Percent of Last Year	Average
UPPER GALLATIN	7	119	117
HYALITE	4	116	95
BRIDGER	3	119	93
GALLATIN RIVER BASIN	14	118	107



AVERAGE IS FOR THE PERIOD 1961-1990.

MINIMUM SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT, 1961-1995, OCCURRED IN WATER YEAR 1977.

MAXIMUM SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT, 1961-1995, OCCURRED IN WATER YEAR 1965.

MISSOURI MAINSTEM RIVER BASIN as of March 1, 1996

Snowpack conditions in the Missouri Mainstem River Basin were near average, increasing 1 percent during February. Snow water content was 1 percent below average and 44 percent above last year.

Mountain precipitation during February was 7 percent above average and 110 percent above last year. Valley precipitation during February was 25 percent below average and 156 percent above last year. Water year precipitation, beginning October 1, 1995, was 10 percent above average and 20 percent above last year.

Reservoir storage, on the last day of February, was 2 percent above average and the same as last year. Canyon Ferry Lake storage was 1 percent above average and the same as last year; Helena Valley storage was 7 percent above average and 10 percent above last year; Lake Helena storage was 9 percent above average and 2 percent above last year; Hauser & Helena storage was 4 percent above average and the same as last year; Holter Lake storage was 19 percent above average and 3 percent above last year; and Fort Peck Lake storage was 8 percent above average and 10 percent above last year.

Streamflows, for the period April through July, are forecast to be 20 percent above average and 34 percent above last years forecasts.

Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI) was +2.4 in the Missouri River above Canyon Ferry; +2.0 in the Missouri River below Canyon Ferry; +2.6 in the Missouri River above Fort Peck; and +2.0 in the Missouri River below Fort Peck.

Streamflow Forecasts

	<=== Drier ===		Future Conditions		=== Wetter ===>		
Forecast Pt	========== Chance of Exceeding * ==========						
Forecast Period	90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	50% (Most Prob) (1000AF)	(% AVG.)	30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)	30 Yr Avg (1000AF)
MISSOURI RIVER at Toston (2)							
APR-JUL	1951		2450	118		2988	2075
APR-SEP	2271		2880	119		3479	2416
PRICKLY PEAR CREEK near Clancy							
APR-JUL	6.9	16.5	23	100	30	39	23
APR-SEP	8.9	19.7	27	100	34	45	27
SUN RIVER at Gibson Dam (2)							
APR-JUL	378	454	505	106	556	632	478
APR-SEP	421	501	555	106	609	689	526
MISSOURI RIVER at Fort Benton (2)							
APR-JUL	2809		3705	120		4692	3087
APR-SEP	3347		4470	122		5591	3678
MARIAS RIVER near Shelby (2)							
APR-JUL	367		520	116		673	447
APR-SEP	399		550	113		857	487

Streamflow Forecasts

Forecast Pt / Forecast Period	<=== Drier === 90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	Future Conditions 50% (Most Prob) (1000AF)	(% AVG.)	=== Wetter ===> 30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)	30 Yr Avg (1000AF)
	Chance of Exceeding *						
MISSOURI RIVER at Virgelle (2)							
APR-JUL	3236		4315	120		5680	3595
APR-SEP	3795		5130	122		6663	4217
MISSOURI RIVER near Landusky (2)							
APR-JUL	3546		4680	120		6352	3897
APR-SEP	4168		5720	125		7465	4580
MISSOURI RIVER below Fort Peck (2)							
APR-JUL	3573		4880	122		6585	4015
APR-SEP	3976		5690	127		7326	4467
LAKE SAKAKAWEA Inflow (2)							
APR-JUL	9798		12700	128		15934	9897
APR-SEP	11233		14670	129		18267	11346

* 90%, 70%, 30%, and 10% chances of exceeding are the probabilities that the actual flow will exceed the volumes in the table.

The average is computed for the 1961-1990 base period.

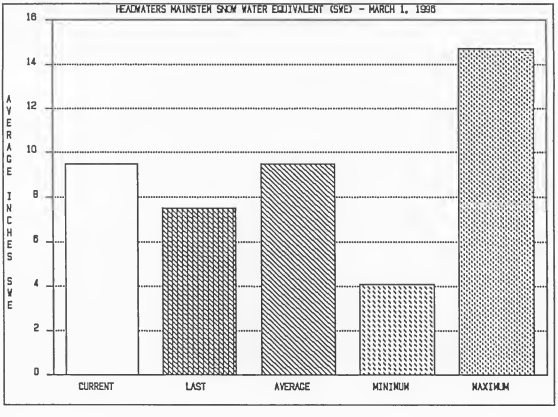
(1) - The values listed under the 10% and 90% Chance of Exceeding are actually 5% and 95% exceedance levels.
(2) - The value is natural flow - actual flow may be affected by upstream water management.

Reservoir Storage (1000AF) End of February

Reservoir	Usable Capacity	********** Usable Storage ********** This Year	Last Year	Average
CANYON FERRY LAKE	2043.0	1563.0	1563.0	1540.0
HELENA VALLEY	9.2	4.5	4.1	4.2
LAKE HELENA	10.4	11.1	10.9	10.2
HAUSER & HELENA	61.9	63.2	63.1	61.0
HOLTER LAKE	81.9	81.3	79.1	68.2
FORT PECK LAKE (MAF)	18.9	15.9	14.4	14.7

Watershed Snowpack Analysis

Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as Percent of Last Year	Average
HEADWATERS MAINSTEM	9	127	101
SUN-TETON-MARIAS BASINS	14	151	109
SMITH-JUDITH-MUSSELSHELL	11	120	93
MAINSTEM ab FORT PECK RES	33	138	102
MILK	11	868	60
MISSOURI MAINSTEM BASIN	44	144	99



AVERAGE IS FOR THE PERIOD 1961-1990.

MINIMUM SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT, 1961-1995, OCCURRED IN WATER YEAR 1977.

MAXIMUM SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT, 1961-1995, OCCURRED IN WATER YEAR 1972.

SMITH-JUDITH-MUSSELSHELL RIVER BASINS as of March 1, 1996

Snowpack conditions in the Smith-Judith-Musselshell River Basins were slightly below average, decreasing 7 percent during February. Snow water content was 7 percent below average and 20 percent below last year.

Mountain and valley precipitation during February was 7 percent above average and 79 percent above last year. Water year precipitation, beginning October 1, 1995, was 15 percent above average and 27 percent above last year.

Reservoir storage, on the last day of February, was 43 percent above average and 36 percent above last year. Smith River storage was 37 percent above average and 74 percent above last year; Bair storage was 48 percent above average and 63 percent above last year; Martinsdale storage was 44 percent above average and 160 percent above last year; and Deadman's Basin was 43 percent above average and 19 percent above last year.

Streamflows, for the period April through July, are forecast to be 9 percent above average and 33 percent above last years forecasts. Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI) was +1.7 in the Smith River and +2.0 in the Musselshell River.

Streamflow Forecasts

Forecast Pt / Period	<=== Drier === Future Conditions === Wetter ===> Chance of Exceeding * 90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	50% (Most Prob) (1000AF)	50% (% AVG.)	30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)	30 Yr Avg (1000AF)
SMITH RIVER near Fort Logan							
APR-JUL	46	60	69	111	78	92	62
APR-SEP	57	71	80	110	89	103	73
SHEEP CREEK nr White Sulphur Springs							
APR-JUL	15.8	18.5	20	112	22	25	18.1
APR-SEP	18.6	22	24	112	26	28	21
NF MUSSELSHELL near Delpine							
APR-JUL	2.64	4.05	5.00	104	5.95	7.36	4.80
APR-SEP	3.27	4.83	5.90	105	6.97	8.53	5.60
SF MUSSELSHELL abv Martinsdale							
APR-JUL	24	42	55	106	68	86	52
APR-SEP	28	47	60	107	73	92	56

* 90%, 70%, 30%, and 10% chances of exceeding are the probabilities that the actual flow will exceed the volumes in the table.

The average is computed for the 1961-1990 base period.

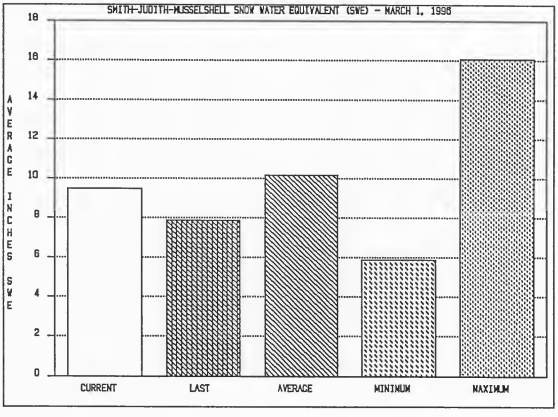
(1) - The values listed under the 10% and 90% Chance of Exceeding are actually 5% and 95% exceedance levels.
(2) - The value is natural flow - actual flow may be affected by upstream water management.

Reservoir Storage (1000AF) End of February

Reservoir	Usable Capacity	********* Usable Storage ********* This Year	Last Year	Average
SMITH RIVER	10.6	9.2	5.3	6.7
NEWLAN CREEK		NO REPORT		
BAIR	7.0	6.2	3.8	4.2
MARTINSDALE	23.1	13.5	5.2	9.4
DEADMAN'S BASIN	72.2	66.0	55.4	46.1

Watershed Snowpack Analysis

Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as Percent of Last Year	Average
SMITH	6	132	107
JUDITH	5	114	84
MUSSELSHELL	5	130	93
SMITH-JUDITH-MUSSELSHELL	11	120	93



AVERAGE IS FOR THE PERIOD 1961-1990.

MINIMUM SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT, 1961-1995, OCCURRED IN WATER YEAR 1987.

MAXIMUM SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT, 1961-1995, OCCURRED IN WATER YEAR 1978.

SUN-TETON-MARIAS RIVER BASINS as of March 1, 1996

Snowpack conditions in the Sun-Teton-Marias River Basins were slightly above average, dropping 3 percent during February. Snow water content was 9 percent above average and 50 percent above last year.

Mountain and valley precipitation for February was 56 percent above average and 94 percent above last year. Water year precipitation, beginning October 1, 1995, was 37 percent above average and 39 percent above last year.

Reservoir storage, on the last day of February, was 44 percent above average and 29 percent above last year. Gibson storage was 22 percent above average and 106 percent above last year; Pishkun storage was 17 percent of average and 0 percent of last year; Willow Creek storage was 28 percent above average and 46 percent above last year; Lower Two Medicine Lake storage was 52 percent above average and 2 percent above last year; Four Horns Lake storage was 42 percent below average and 35 percent below last year; Swift storage was 49 percent above average and 58 percent above last year; Lake Frances storage was 37 percent above average and 89 percent above last year; and Lake Elwell (Tiber) storage was 49 percent above average and 19 percent above last year.

Streamflows, for the period April through July, are forecast to be 12 percent above average and 42 percent above last years forecasts.

Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI) was +2.0 in the Sun River; +2.0 in the Teton River; +2.6 in the Birch/Dupuyer Creeks; and +2.2 in the Marias River.

Streamflow Forecasts

	<=== Drier ===	Future Conditions	=== Wetter ===>			
Forecast Pt	Chance of Exceeding *					
Forecast Period	90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	50% (Most Prob) (1000AF)	(% AVG.)	30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)	30 Yr Avg (1000AF)
SUN RIVER at Gibson Dam (2)							
APR-JUL	378	454	505	106	556	632	478
APR-SEP	421	501	555	106	609	689	526
TWO MEDICINE RIVER near Browning (2)							
APR-JUL	168	214	245	114	276	322	215
APR-SEP	183	229	260	114	291	337	228
BADGER CREEK near Browning (2)							
APR-JUL	87	107	120	115	133	153	104
APR-SEP	105	126	140	117	154	175	120
SWIFT RESERVOIR Inflow near Dupuyer							
APR-JUL	52	67	77	113	87	102	68
APR-SEP	64	80	90	113	101	116	80
DUPUYER CREEK near Valier							
APR-JUL	2.7	11.6	17.6	114	24	33	15.5
APR-SEP	4.3	13.5	19.8	114	26	35	17.4

Streamflow Forecasts

Forecast Pt / Forecast Period	<--- Drier --- Future Conditions --- Wetter ---> Chance of Exceeding * 90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	50% (Most Prob) (1000AF)	50% (Most Prob) (% AVG.)	30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)	30 Yr Avg (1000AF)
CUT BANK CREEK at Cut Bank							
APR-JUL	77	92	102	117	112	127	87
APR-SEP	86	102	112	117	123	138	96
MARIAS RIVER near Shelby (2)							
APR-JUL	367		520	116		673	447
APR-SEP	399		550	113		857	487

* 90%, 70%, 30%, and 10% chances of exceeding are the probabilities that the actual flow will exceed the volumes in the table.

The average is computed for the 1961-1990 base period.

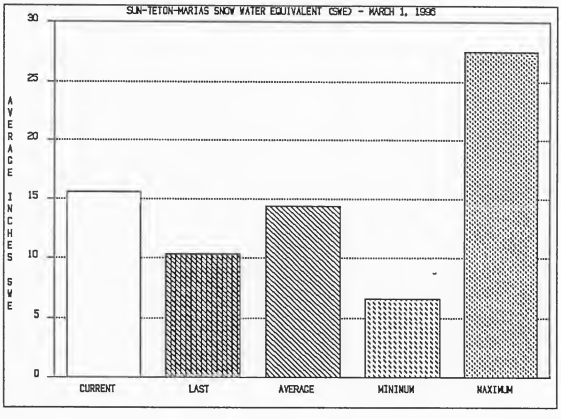
(1) - The values listed under the 10% and 90% Chance of Exceeding are actually 5% and 95% exceedance levels.
(2) - The value is natural flow - actual flow may be affected by upstream water management.

Reservoir Storage (1000AF) End of February

Reservoir	Usable Capacity	********** Usable Storage ********** This Year	Last Year	Average
GIBSON	99.1	57.8	28.1	47.5
PISHKUN	32.0	20.6	0.0	17.6
WILLOW CREEK	32.2	27.8	19.1	21.7
LOWER TWO MEDICINE LAKE	11.9	10.5	10.3	6.9
FOUR HORNS LAKE	19.2	7.3	11.3	12.5
SWIFT	30.0	24.5	15.5	16.4
LAKE FRANCES	112.0	95.4	50.4	69.7
LAKE ELWELL (TIBER)	1347.0	865.2	725.6	580.2

Watershed Snowpack Analysis

Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as Percent of Last Year	Average
SUN	7	185	105
TETON	4	157	112
MARIAS	6	134	112
SUN-TETON-MARIAS BASINS 4	14	151	109



AVERAGE IS FOR THE PERIOD 1961-1990.

MINIMUM SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT, 1961-1995, OCCURRED IN WATER YEAR 1984.

MAXIMUM SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT, 1961-1995, OCCURRED IN WATER YEAR 1972.

ST. MARY and MILK RIVER BASINS as of March 1, 1996

Snowpack conditions in the St. Mary were slightly above average and in the Milk were below average. Snow water content in the St. Mary, during February, dropped 5 percent while the snow water content in the Milk dropped 8 percent. Snow water content in the St. Mary was 8 percent above average and 26 percent above last year and the Milk was 40 percent below average and 768 percent above last year.

Mountain and valley precipitation during February was 38 percent above average and 55 percent above last year. Water year precipitation, beginning October 1, 1995, was 52 percent above average and 54 percent above last year.

Reservoir storage, on the last day of February, was 46 percent above average and 78 percent above last year. Lake Sherburne storage was 43 percent above average and 80 percent above last year; Fresno storage was 92 percent above average and 96 percent above last year; Beaver Creek storage was 65 percent above average and 18 percent above last year; and Nelson storage was 22 percent below average and 38 percent above last year.

Streamflows, for the period April through July or March through July, in the St. Mary are forecast to be 6 percent above average and 26 percent above last years forecasts and in the Milk are forecast to be 1 percent above average and 56 percent above last year.

Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI) was +0.7 for the combined St. Mary and Milk River.

Streamflow Forecasts

	<=== Drier ===	Future Conditions	=== Wetter ===>			
Forecast Pt	Chance of Exceeding *					
Forecast Period	90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	50% (Most Prob) (1000AF)	(% AVG.)	30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)	30 Yr Avg (1000AF)
SWIFTCURRENT CREEK at Sherburne (2)							
APR-JUL	95	104	110	103	116	125	107
APR-SEP	109	118	125	100	132	141	125
ST. MARY RIVER near Babb							
APR-JUL	368	399	420	106	441	472	395
APR-SEP	429	465	490	106	515	551	463
ST. MARY RIVER at US/CAN Border (2)							
APR-JUL	427	473	505	109	537	583	462
APR-SEP	499	550	585	109	620	671	539
MILK RIVER at Western Crossing							
MAR-JUL	33	42	49	111	56	65	44
MAR-SEP	35	45	51	111	58	67	46
MILK RIVER at Eastern Crossing (2)							
MAR-JUL	39	62	77	96	93	115	80
MAR-SEP	48	70	85	97	100	122	88

Streamflow Forecasts

Forecast Pt / Forecast Period	<=== Drier === Future Conditions === Wetter ===> Chance of Exceeding * 90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	50% (Most Prob) (1000AF)	(% AVG.)	30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)	30 Yr Avg (1000AF)
BEAVER CREEK near Havre							
MAR-JUL	2.0	6.8	10.1	98	13.4	18.2	10.3

* 90%, 70%, 30%, and 10% chances of exceeding are the probabilities that the actual flow will exceed the volumes in the table.

The average is computed for the 1961-1990 base period.

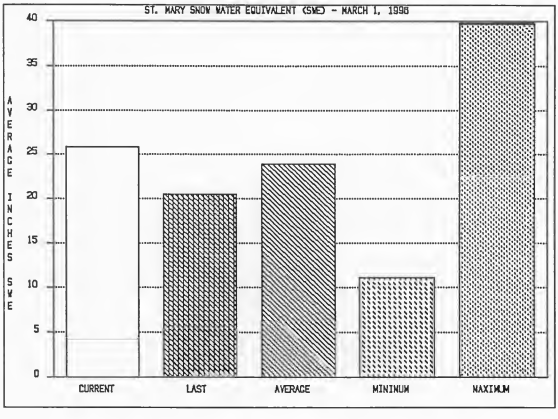
(1) - The values listed under the 10% and 90% Chance of Exceeding are actually 5% and 95% exceedance levels.
(2) - The value is natural flow - actual flow may be affected by upstream water management.

Reservoir Storage (1000AF) End of February

Reservoir	Usable Capacity	********** Usable Storage ********* This Year	Last Year	Average
LAKE SHERBURNE	64.3	37.7	21.0	26.3
FRESNO	127.0	99.9	50.9	52.0
BEAVER CREEK	3.5	3.3	2.8	2.0
NELSON	66.8	27.7	20.1	35.3

Watershed Snowpack Analysis

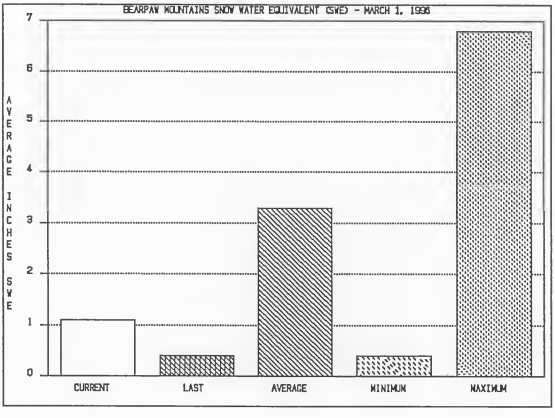
Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as Percent of Last Year	Average
ST. MARY RIVER BASIN	3	126	108
BEARPAW MOUNTAINS	5	270	32
CYPRESS HILLS, CANADA	6	3260	84
MILK RIVER BASIN	11	868	60
ST. MARY and MILK BASINS	14	155	92



AVERAGE IS FOR THE PERIOD 1961-1990.

MINIMUM SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT, 1961-1995, OCCURRED IN WATER YEAR 1977.

MAXIMUM SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT, 1961-1995, OCCURRED IN WATER YEAR 1972.



AVERAGE IS FOR THE PERIOD 1961-1990.

MINIMUM SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT, 1973-1995, WAS 0.4 INCHES AND OCCURRED IN WATER YEAR 1981 AND 1995 HAS NOW TIED THIS MINIMUM.

MAXIMUM SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT, 1973-1995, WAS 6.8 INCHES AND OCCURRED IN WATER YEAR 1978.

UPPER YELLOWSTONE RIVER BASIN as of March 1, 1996

Snowpack conditions in the Upper Yellowstone River Basin were above average but has dropped 6 percent during February. Snow water content was 29 percent above average and 35 percent above last year. The following snow data sites have set new March 1 snow water content records: Box Canyon, Beartooth Lake, Evening Star, Wolverine and Parkers Peak has tied the previous record. Several others are ranked in the top five of record. Mountain precipitation during February was 13 percent above average and 51 percent above last year. Valley precipitation during February was 7 percent above average and 79 percent above last year. Water year precipitation, beginning October 1, 1995, was 34 percent above average and 25 percent above last year.

Reservoir storage, on the last day of February, was 3 percent below average and 18 percent below last year. Mystic Lake storage was 67 percent below average and 59 percent below last year and Cooney storage was 21 percent above average and 15 percent above last year.

Streamflows, for the period April through July, are forecast to be 30 percent above average and 37 percent above last years forecasts.

Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI) was +3.4 in the Yellowstone River above Livingston; +0.9 in the Shields River; +2.2 in the Boulder River; +2.1 in the Stillwater River; +3.0 in the Rock/Red lodge Creeks; +3.2 in the Clarks Fork River; and +3.1 in the Yellowstone River above Bighorn River.

Streamflow Forecasts

Forecast Pt / Period	<--- Drier --- 90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	Future Conditions 50% (Most Prob) (1000AF)	(% AVG.)	--- Wetter ---> 30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)	30 Yr Avg (1000AF)
YELLOWSTONE at Lake Outlet							
APR-JUL	561	629	675	118	721	789	573
APR-SEP	784	877	940	119	1003	1096	792
YELLOWSTONE RIVER at Corwin Springs							
APR-JUL	1751	1861	1935	120	2009	2119	1609
APR-SEP	2081	2211	2300	119	2389	2519	1937
YELLOWSTONE RIVER near Livingston							
APR-JUL	2060	2200	2295	124	2390	2530	1855
APR-SEP	2444	2608	2720	121	2832	2996	2241
SHIELDS RIVER near Livingston							
APR-JUL	114	144	165	102	186	216	162
APR-SEP	134	164	185	103	206	236	179
BOULDER RIVER at Big Timber							
APR-JUL	247	288	315	94	342	383	335
APR-SEP	270	312	340	93	368	410	364
WEST ROSEBUD CREEK near Roscoe (2)							
APR-JUL	64	72	77	126	82	90	61
APR-SEP	86	95	100	127	106	114	79

Forecast Pt / Forecast Period: Chance of Exceeding *

Streamflow Forecasts

Forecast Pt / Period	<-- Drier -- Future Conditions -- Wetter --> Chance of Exceeding * 90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	50% (Most Prob) (1000AF)	(% AVG.)	30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)	30 Yr Avg (1000AF)
STILLWATER RIVER nr Absarokee (2)							
APR-JUL	477	562	620	125	678	763	498
APR-SEP	599	686	745	126	804	891	593
CLARKS FORK RIVER near Belfry							
APR-JUL	582	641	680	128	719	778	532
APR-SEP	654	714	755	128	796	856	590
RED LODGE CREEK blw Cooney Res (2)							
APR-JUL	37	54	65	138	77	93	47
APR-SEP	51	68	79	139	90	107	57
YELLOWSTONE RIVER at Billings (2)							
APR-JUL	3760	4183	4470	125	4757	5180	3577
APR-SEP	4674	5034	5340	127	5646	6022	4211

* 90%, 70%, 30%, and 10% chances of exceeding are the probabilities that the actual flow will exceed the volumes in the table.

The average is computed for the 1961-1990 base period.

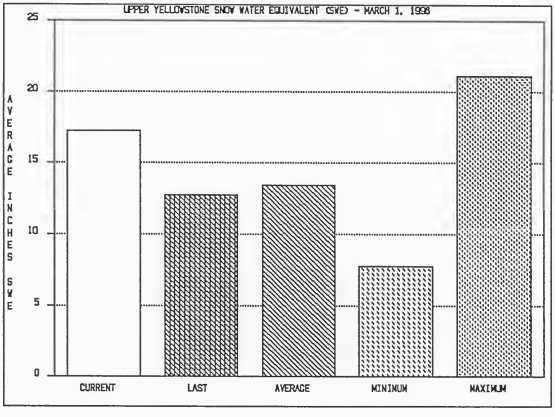
(1) - The values listed under the 10% and 90% Chance of Exceeding are actually 5% and 95% exceedance levels.
(2) - The value is natural flow - actual flow may be affected by upstream water management.

Reservoir Storage (1000AF) End of February

Reservoir	Usable Capacity	********** This Year	Usable Storage Last Year	********* Average
MYSTIC LAKE	21.0	1.9	3.1	5.8
COONEY	27.4	18.7	22.0	15.4

Watershed Snowpack Analysis

Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as Percent of Last Year	Average
YELLOWSTONE ab LIVINGSTON	16	138	134
SHIELDS	5	120	96
BOULDER-STILLWATER	4	148	123
CLARK'S FORK-ROCK CREEK	13	136	137
UPPER YELLOWSTONE BASIN	34	136	128



AVERAGE IS FOR THE PERIOD 1961-1990.

MINIMUM SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT, 1961-1995, OCCURRED IN WATER YEAR 1977.

MAXIMUM SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT, 1961-1995, OCCURRED IN WATER YEAR 1965.

LOWER YELLOWSTONE RIVER BASIN as of March 1, 1996

Snowpack conditions in the Lower Yellowstone River Basin were above average but has dropped 9 percent during February. Snow water content was 18 percent above average and 24 percent above last year. The following snow data sites have set new March 1 snow water content records: Blackwater, Evening Star and Marquette. Several others rank in the top five of record.

Mountain and valley precipitation during February was 5 percent below average and 3 percent above last year. Water year precipitation, beginning October 1, 1995, was 23 percent above average and the same as last year.

Reservoir storage, on the last day of February, was 2 percent above average and 4 percent above last year. Bighorn Lake storage was 1 percent above average and 3 percent above last year and Tongue River was 14 percent above average and 16 percent above last year.

Streamflows, for the period April through July, are forecast to be 24 percent above average and 29 percent above last years forecasts.

Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI) was +2.1 in the Bighorn River below Bighorn Lake; -0.3 in the Little Bighorn River; +2.8 in the Yellowstone River below Bighorn River; +0.5 in the Tongue River; and -0.4 in the Powder River.

Streamflow Forecasts

Forecast Pt	<=== Drier ===		Future Conditions		=== Wetter ===>		
	Chance of Exceeding *						
Forecast Period	90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	50% (Most Prob) (1000AF)	(% AVG.)	30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)	30 Yr Avg (1000AF)
YELLOWSTONE RIVER at Billings (2)							
APR-JUL	3760	4183	4470	125	4757	5180	3577
APR-SEP	4674	5034	5340	127	5646	6022	4211
BIGHORN RIVER nr St. Xavier (2)							
APR-JUL	1494	1813	2030	123	2247	2566	1645
APR-SEP	1686	2010	2250	125	2490	2745	1794
LITTLE BIGHORN RIVER nr Hardin							
APR-JUL	53	93	120	86	147	187	140
APR-SEP	58	104	135	86	166	212	157
TONGUE RIVER stateline nr Decker (2)							
APR-JUL	142	195	230	100	265	318	230
APR-SEP	159	213	250	98	287	341	256
YELLOWSTONE RIVER at Miles City (2)							
APR-JUL	5249	6173	6800	125	7427	8351	5431
APR-SEP	6532	7281	7990	127	8699	9359	6281
POWDER RIVER at Moorhead							
MAR-JUL	127	171	200	81	229	273	246
MAR-SEP	139	184	215	80	246	291	268

Streamflow Forecasts

Forecast Pt / Forecast Period	<=== Drier === Future Conditions === Wetter ===> Chance of Exceeding * 90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	50% (Most Prob) (1000AF)	(% AVG.)	30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)	30 Yr Avg (1000AF)
POWDER RIVER near Locate							
MAR-JUL	129	189	230	72	271	331	320
MAR-SEP	130	204	255	74	306	380	343
YELLOWSTONE RIVER nr Sidney (2)							
APR-JUL	5901	6972	7700	130	8428	9499	5925
APR-SEP	7223	7795	8690	128	9585	10834	6814

* 90%, 70%, 30%, and 10% chances of exceeding are the probabilities that the actual flow will exceed the volumes in the table.

The average is computed for the 1961-1990 base period.

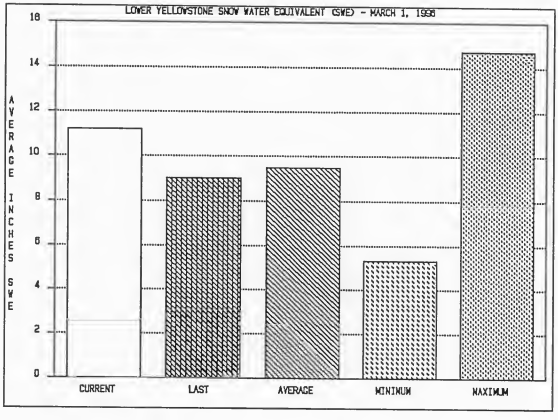
(1) - The values listed under the 10% and 90% Chance of Exceeding are actually 5% and 95% exceedance levels.
(2) - The value is natural flow - actual flow may be affected by upstream water management.

Reservoir Storage (1000AF) End of February

Reservoir	Usable Capacity	********** Usable Storage ********** This Year	Last Year	Average
BIGHORN LAKE	1356.0	821.4	796.6	810.4
TONGUE RIVER	68.0	34.2	29.4	30.1

Watershed Snowpack Analysis

Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as Percent of Last Year	Average
WIND RIVER (Wyoming)	20	135	125
SHOSHONE RIVER (Wyoming)	6	152	162
BIGHORN RIVER (Wyoming)	20	126	124
LITTLE BIGHORN (WYOMING)	3	122	93
TONGUE RIVER (Wyoming)	9	113	101
POWDER RIVER (Wyoming)	9	87	95
LOWER YELLOWSTONE BASIN	48	124	118



AVERAGE IS FOR THE PERIOD 1961-1990.

MINIMUM SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT, 1961-1995, OCCURRED IN WATER YEAR 1977.

MAXIMUM SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT, 1961-1995, OCCURRED IN WATER YEAR 1972.

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Montana
Basin Outlook Report

Natural Resources Conservation Service
Bozeman, MT